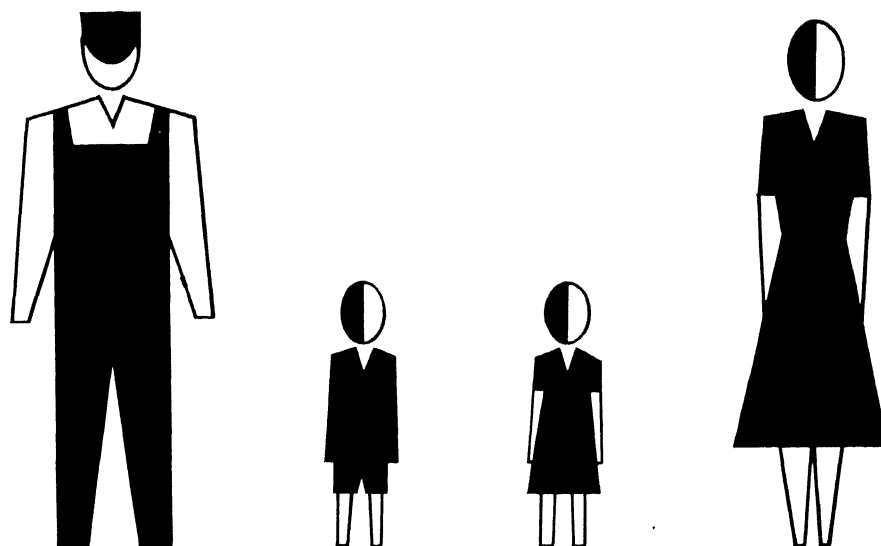


# **FACTORS INFLUENCING the lives of a group of YOUNG FARM FAMILIES**

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# **FACTORS INFLUENCING THE LIVES OF A GROUP OF YOUNG FARM FAMILIES**

**CHRISTINE H. HILLMAN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

In recent years persons professionally interested in bettering rural American homes and family living have expressed increasing concern for the effectiveness of their work with those in the rural population, especially those who range in age from 18 to 30 years. A number of factors have influenced this concern. Important among these has been (1) the awareness that services designed to help young rural families live more personally satisfying lives have lagged behind progress made in many other fields, (2) the lack of reliable data upon which to formulate programs and educational materials of greater interest and benefit to young married families, and (3) the lack of scientific information relative to the close relationship between personal and economic problems and adjustments of young rural families and the quality of successful living to be found in homes.

These expressions of concern and lack of scientific information as revealed by an inspection of pertinent literature, has helped stimulate interest for research in many areas of rural family relationships. The present study purports to be an effort to fill one of the gaps in connection with the above mentioned needs, namely; to analyze those economic and personal factors which appear to have influenced the home and family life of a selected group of young married rural families.

### **LIMITATIONS**

While all rural families may have many of the same personal and economic problems, it is probable that the happiness or quality of living in any one home is influenced by several factors such as the size of the family, ages of the children, health, amount of cash income, farm-family living arrangements, background experience, community contacts.

educational level, personal attitudes, values, and standards. To get data relative to the purposes of the present study, the participating families were limited to 150 young married rural couples living in central Ohio. It will be observed that the families were a fairly selected group as to educational background, economic background and advantages, stage in family life cycle, age of the couples, and relationship to the farm on which they resided. The conclusions drawn, therefore, cannot be applied to all types of rural families but only to those similar to the ones studied.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the study was to determine the relationship between some of the personal and economic problems faced during the first five years of marriage, the quality of successful living, and those factors which might contribute to the success of a selected group of young married, central Ohio families. Comparisons were made among the inter-relationships most commonly found and the findings will be discussed in terms of their usefulness as aids to educational and professional leaders in rural areas.

## **SOURCE OF DATA**

Data for the study were collected from 150 farm couples living in four central Ohio counties, namely: Delaware, Madison, Union, and Pickaway. The cooperating families were evenly distributed throughout the area.

It was essential to the purpose of the study that the families meet the following requirements:

1. The families must be young married, farm couples under thirty years of age.
2. All couples must have been married no less than twelve months nor more than five years.
3. The families must reside on and obtain the major part of their income from the farm.
4. The relationship of all families to the farm on which they resided must fall into one of the following classifications, (a) owner-operator, (b) tenant-operator, (c) father-son arrangement and (d) hired manager.

The names of eligible families were obtained through the generous cooperation of county Agricultural and Home Extension Agents, vocational teachers of Agriculture and Home Economics, Farm Home

Administration Supervisors, 4-H Club leaders, and other local persons acquainted with young married farm couples in their respective communities. In no instance was cooperation refused by either resource persons or by families who qualified for the study.



**Data were collected from 150 families living in these four central Ohio counties.**

## METHOD

Earlier studies of methods for research in home and family living<sup>1</sup> have shown that well-planned, personal interviews may yield reliable results in clarity, vividness of answers, and in completeness of thought. That method was chosen for obtaining data for this study.

All contacts with the participating families were made by one investigator. During the initial visit the purpose of the study was explained and the consent of the family to participate was obtained. Individual interviews were arranged with the husband and wife and, whenever possible, with both husband and wife. To obtain information necessary to the purpose of the study, the interview required approximately two hours of the family's time.

An originally designed schedule form was used for recording all information. In addition to the answers given, any voluntary comments or candid reactions to the questions were also recorded.

The schedule form was divided into seven broad areas of information, namely; (1) general characteristics and background information relative to the families in the study, (2) characteristics of the farm business, (3) physical environment of the home, (4) home management factors, (5) personal factors, (6) economic factors, and (7) family relationships. Data obtained through analysis of the findings in the seven areas will be discussed as they relate to the purpose of this study.

### CHARACTERISTICS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELATIVE TO FAMILIES STUDIED

Personal interviews were completed and data pertinent to the study recorded for 150 young married farm couples in four central Ohio counties. As was stated previously, information was to be obtained from either the husband or wife, or whenever possible, from both husband and wife. The distribution of interviews by persons giving information was as follows: (1) 105 interviews were with the wife only, (2) 30 interviews were with both husband and wife, and (3) 15 interviews were with the husband only. It will be observed that the major portion of the information was obtained through contact with the wives.

All of the young men and women were native American. Likewise, all were of the white race. The average age of the men was 26.2 years; the range was from 20 to 30 years. The average age of all

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<sup>1</sup>Brown, Clara M. *Evaluation and Investigation in Home Economics*, New York, F. S. Crofts & Co., 1941. Pp. 276-279.

women was 24.4 years; the range from 19 to 30 years. The average length of marriage for all couples was 3.8 years. The range was from 13 months to not more than 72 months.

The 150 families were represented as having 211 children or an average of 1.4 children per family. However, 9 families or 6 percent of those in the study were without children at time of interview. Therefore, 141 families had 211 children or an approximate average of 1.5 children per family.

Table 1 classifies the families by number of years married and shows the total number of children born to families within each year classification. It will be noted that the group was fairly representative of families within each of these categories.

**TABLE 1.—Classification of Families by Number of Years Married, and Number of Children Born to Families within Each Year Classification**

Length of marriage by years	Number of families	Number of children
1—2 years . . . . .	16	10
2—3 years . . . . .	23	21
3—4 years . . . . .	27	33
4—5 years . . . . .	38	48
5—6 years . . . . .	46	99
Total . . . . .	150	211

#### COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

The place of residence of 98 percent of the husbands and 61 percent of the wives had always been on the farm; the majority in the same county where they now live. However, 2 percent of the husbands and 39 percent of the wives had non-farm backgrounds. These figures have significance in that not only must many rural homemakers make adjustments to homemaking responsibilities and children during the very early years of marriage, but adjustments to new social and physical environmental conditions as well.

#### FAMILY HEALTH

Information relative to the health of family members was recorded in one of three ways, namely: good, fair, and poor. Results indicate the following for the husbands: 143 in good health, 6 in fair health, and

one in poor health. The health status of the wives was generally good. There were 140 who considered themselves to be in good health, 8 as being in fair health, and 2 in poor health. Each of the 211 children was said to be in good health as judged by parents. Indications were, but for a few exceptional cases, that couples could, as far as health was concerned, carry on full programs of farm and homemaking activities unhindered by illness.

### FORMAL SCHOOLING

The formal education of couples was generally high as is indicated in Table 2.

**TABLE 2.—Formal Schooling of Married Young Men and Women Included in the Study**

Formal Schooling	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Attended high school	13	8.7	8	5.3
Graduated from high school	110	73.3	103	68.7
Attended college	17	11.3	23	15.3
Graduated from college	10	6.7	16	10.7
Total	150	100.0	150	100.0

It will be observed that all but 13 of the young men had graduated from high school, that 27 had either attended or graduated from college, and 10 men or 6.7 percent of the total group had graduated from college. Likewise, it is to be noted that the wives had slightly more formal education than did their husbands; all but 8 had graduated from high school, 39 had either attended or graduated from college, and 16 or over 10 percent had graduated from college.

These figures are in agreement with previous studies which point out that rural areas are rapidly becoming populated by young people with an ever-increasing school training.<sup>2</sup> This would result, it appears, in a higher standard of living in rural areas and a greater demand for other elements which might provide satisfactory home and family living.

<sup>2</sup>Anderson, W. A. Rural Youth: Activities, Interests and Problems. Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Bul. 661. P. 34, January 1937.



It would seem, also, that the situation may have implications for professional leaders of social and educational programs in rural communities. In some ways, it may facilitate the work; in other ways, it may make it more difficult. For the alert professional leader, the figures may be highly significant. They will influence the content of program-planning, its leadership structure, and its method. The couples do not all have the same educational and community backgrounds or interests. They cannot all be reached by the same materials or in the same ways.

### SUBJECT-MATTER CONCENTRATION

Information relative to areas of interest or subject-matter concentration while attending either high school or college was obtained for each of the men and women in the study. By comparing Tables 3 and 4 where the data are analyzed, it will be noted that the wives appeared to have had less preparation in subject areas which might have equipped them with knowledge of homemaking techniques than did their husbands in areas of preparation for a farm career. It will be observed in Table 3 that 101 or 67.3 percent of the men either attending or graduating from high school had concentrated their programs of study in agricultural subjects. In contrast to this only 29 or 19.3 percent of the wives, either attending or graduating from high school, had concentrated work in home economics. Furthermore, of the 27 young men who attended college, 16 or approximately 60 percent majored in agriculture, whereas only one young woman out of the 39 attending college majored in home economics. The lack of home economics training is stressed particularly since later questioning proved that the women were especially desirous of information which is logically a part of the high school and college preparation in this field.

**TABLE 3.—Number and Percent of Men Who Indicated Specific Areas of Subject-matter Concentration while Attending School**

Subject Concentration	High School		College	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	101	67.3	16	59.3
General	45	30.1	5	18.5
Commercial	4	2.6	—	—
Other	—	—	6	22.2
Total	150	100.0	27	100.0

**TABLE 4.—Number and Percent of Women Who Indicated Specific Areas of Subject-matter Concentration while Attending School**

Subject Concentration	High School		College	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
General . . . . .	105	70.0	9	23.1
Home Economics . . . . .	29	19.3	1	2.5
Commercial . . . . .	16	10.7	—	—
Elementary Education . . . . .	—	—	11	28.2
Nursing . . . . .	—	—	4	10.2
Other . . . . .	—	—	14	36.0
Total . . . . .	150	100.0	39	100.0

#### OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT

At the time of the study, 25 of the wives and 11 of the husbands from the 150 families contacted, were engaged in some kind of off-farm employment. Since there was no family in which the husband and wife were both employed, it may be concluded that 24 percent of the families were represented as receiving some income from sources other than the farm. In each instance, the reason given was the need to supplement farm income. The number so employed does not appear to be a large proportion when one considers that (1) the study was made during the winter and early spring months, a normally slack season on many farms, and (2) the opportunities for employment in industry which this section of the state affords.<sup>3</sup>

Of the husbands, only 17 or 11.3 percent reported any off-farm occupational experience prior to marriage. Many indicated that their preparation for farming as a career had started early through directed training in vocational agriculture, 4-H Club work, and practical experience at home; that they enjoyed farming and, being needed by parents, they had never desired or had the opportunity to work away from the farm. Others indicated that time spent in military service was enough to convince them that farming was their first choice as a career. Sixty-four percent of the men in the study had been in military service.

<sup>3</sup>Andrews, Wade H. and Westerkamm, Emily M. Rural-Urban Population Change and Migration in Ohio 1940-1950. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Bul. 737: 10-14. November 1953.

Figures indicate that, prior to marriage, 61 percent of all women in the study had been in salaried employment. This experience had been for varying periods of time and in numerous types of occupations. Data show, also, that it was the young woman with the non-farm background who most generally had been employed. It appears, therefore, that to integrate the group with non-farm backgrounds into a common rural social life, or to formulate educational programs and materials for them is made even more difficult by the differences in their experience and past interests.

### **LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

Fifty-eight percent of the families lived in a house which they alone occupied; 16 percent shared a home with someone else, usually the husband's parents, and 26 percent lived in a second house on the farm. The second house, usually a tenant dwelling, was in most cases on the farm where the young family worked and was owned by parents.

Data indicate that considerably more of the husbands were satisfied with these arrangements than were the wives. Eighty-four percent of the men expressed satisfaction with living arrangements in contrast to 69 percent of the wives. In fact, this appeared to be the greatest single personal factor affecting the successful adjustment of the wives to home and family living within the first five years of their marriage. The percentage of wives voicing dissatisfaction closely parallels the percentage of those whose husbands were operating farms under a father-son arrangement as will be shown in information to be presented later. In this respect the above analysis is highly significant for data indicate that it was only the young women living in a house with someone else, or those living in a second house on the farm, who most frequently voiced these opinions relative to living arrangements. It can be assumed, perhaps, that every woman wants to live in and manage her own home but indications were that they objected to living in a second house on the farm almost as much as they disliked living in the same house. Reasons given for this were as follows:

1. The house is so near the parent's home that they watch everything we do, expect to know every detail of our lives, and dictate how we should manage.
2. The parents expect to call on us for help with all chores. We have to do our work as well as theirs.

3. Parents expect us to spend every free moment with them. We can't have an evening alone or go anyplace unless they know where we're going and just when we will return.
4. Parents expect to tell us how to discipline the children. They spoil the children. It is difficult to live so close.
5. Parents will not let us assume any personal responsibility for the management of the farm or for our home. They refuse to accept the fact that we are adults too.

In view of information presented, it appears that housing with respect to the living arrangement of young married farm families should be a major consideration of those preparing for marriage, especially those who plan to operate with a father-son arrangement.

#### **PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

Individual participation in community organizations and activities was recorded for the years prior to marriage as well as at the time of interview. It seemed logical to assume that about the same relative number of persons who participated in organizational life while in school or prior to marriage would be inclined to continue participation in organized activity after marriage. With the exception of church attendance, results did not show any significant relationship between these two periods in the life cycle of families interviewed.

Figure 1 shows the principal activities engaged in by men and women prior to marriage and the percentage who indicated medium to active participation. It will be observed that no effort was made to classify organizational participation as to formal or informal type of experience afforded the individual. However, the church, the school, and the 4-H Club appeared to be the organizations which had furnished guided group participation for the majority of persons during the period before marriage. A large proportion stated that they had liked to participate in the work of these organizations. A number indicated that they were unable to assume leadership because of transportation difficulties, the amount of work regularly required at home, and responsibilities in connection with paid employment. The young men had, on an average, belonged and participated in 2.6 organizations prior to marriage; the women an average of 2.7 organizations each.

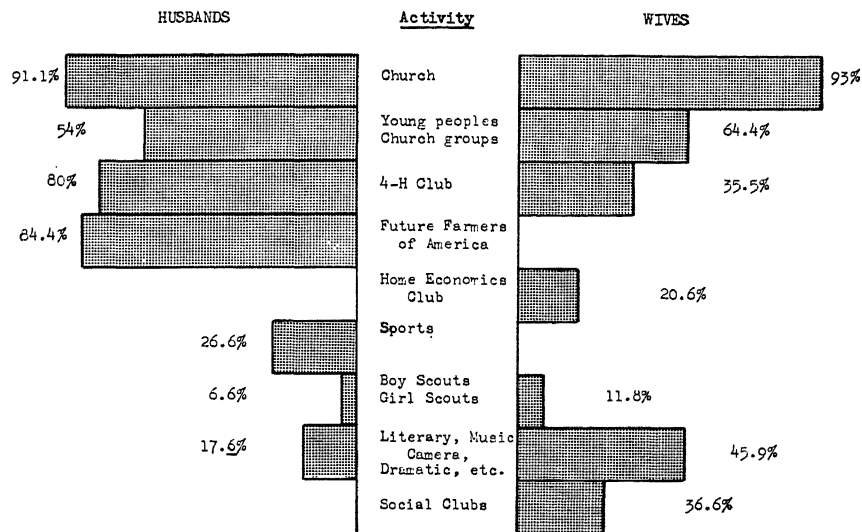
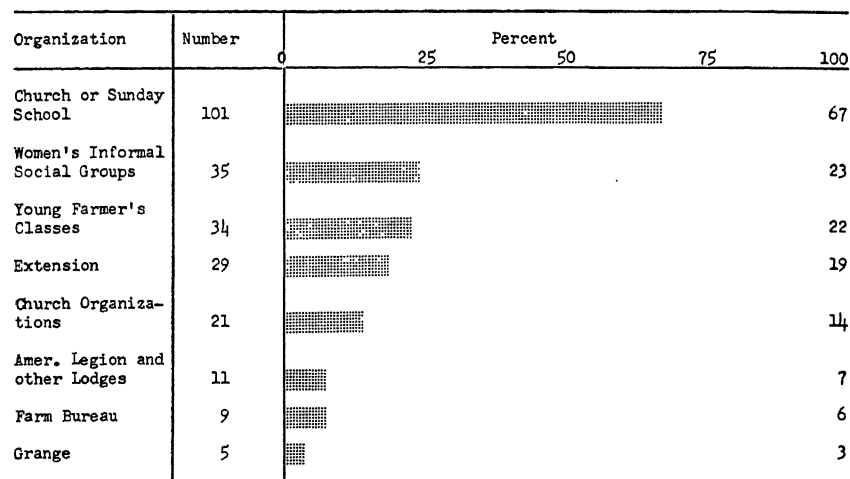


Fig. 1.—Principal groups to which men and women had belonged prior to marriage.

Little variation in the amount of participation was found among those men and women who had attended or graduated from college and those who had graduated from high school. Those who had left high school before graduation had the lowest participation score. The men had, on an average, participated in 1.3 organizations. The women averaged 1.5 organizations each.

Figure 2 shows the principal organizational activities engaged in by families at the time of interview, and the percentage who indicated medium to active participation. It is evident that the activity of the couples in rural community life was not great; over 50 percent did not regularly participate in any community organization with but one exception, that of the church. The women were more active in the church and allied religious organizations than were their husbands. The men more regularly attended organizations related to farming than any other although total participation for the group was extremely low. The wives were more inclined to belong to informal social groups where, as they stated, "There are to be found women of my own age whose personal interests and economic situation is similar to mine." Observation of Figure 2 will indicate, however, that the informal social contacts



**Fig. 2.—Principal organizational activities engaged in by families and percentage who indicated medium to active participation.**

for the majority of women were inadequate for their personal well-being and integration into a satisfying social life in the community. Again it may be stated that there was little variation in the amount of participation among those men and women who had attended or graduated from college and those who had graduated from high school.

Since the Extension Service has an effectively organized program in each of the counties wherein the families were located, specific questions were asked relative to interest and participation in this organization. Replies indicate the following:

1. Nine percent of the men stated that they were active, that they regularly attended scheduled meetings, attempted to invite others, and to assume leadership. Ten percent indicated a medium to active participation; 53 percent attended an occasional meeting, and 28 percent did not participate in any county Extension program or meeting.
2. Only three percent of the wives were considered active, that is to say, assumed leadership, invited others, and attended regularly. Five percent indicated a medium to active participation; 24 percent said that they attended an occasional meeting, perhaps once a year. Sixty-eight percent did not participate in any Extension program or activity.

Data presented in this study relative to the extent of participation of young farm families in community organizations appear to explode the theory held by some community leaders that all rural young people are over organized. To the contrary, it appears that they have a definite need for greater organizational affiliations than they now have.

Husbands and wives were asked, "Do present farm and home responsibilities limit your participation in community organizations and activities?" In reply to this question, 52 percent of the husbands indicated that they were somewhat limited; 48 percent said that they were not limited in any way. Twelve percent of the wives said that they were not limited in participation, 27 percent said that they were somewhat limited, and 61 percent said that they were definitely limited.

The couples were asked to state the nature of the responsibilities which limited their participation in community affairs. A majority of the husbands indicated heavy farming and livestock programs with long and uneven hours of work. The wives stated that young children, and long and uneven hours of husband's work were responsibilities limiting their participation. The difficulty in finding baby sitters in rural areas, and the lack of ready-cash with which to employ those who might be available were primary considerations, however.

With reference to the above data, it would appear that organizations seriously interested in promoting educational programs for young rural couples might make a careful study of factors limiting family participation. It is true that a heavy livestock and farming program, long and uneven hours of work, possible part-time employment, and young children pose problems. On the other hand, it will be observed that the majority of men and a large number of women in this study indicated under separate questioning that attendance at meetings was not an impossibility.

A comparison of data relative to the number of organizations in which couples regularly participated, and those couples who indicate that attendance is not impossible leads to the conclusion that many men and women who might be participating in organized community activity are not doing so. Why is this? The following information may answer the question in part.

**Interest in Organized Community Activity.** There was every indication that most couples were interested in organized community activity. It would appear, however, that they desired specific types of activity, group contacts, and educational programs (Table 5). Frequent criticisms of existing organizations were as follows:

1. We attended a few times but didn't get anything out of the meetings. The programs were set up for older people.
2. We attended a few times but we were the only young people there. We felt out of place.
3. The older people around here run the organizations and the younger ones don't have much chance to speak up.
4. We don't have a lot of money. It is embarrassing to go where everyone is better off than we are.
5. Most of the groups around here meet in homes. We didn't feel that ours would be nice enough so we dropped out.
6. We would like to go to something where we could have a little fun as well as listen to a speaker.
7. We are new in this community. No one has ever invited us to attend. We know that the meetings are open to the public but are timid about going when we've never met anyone.
8. All of the organizations in this community seem to be set up for older people. We'd like to belong to something where the young people get together, discuss their common problems, and organize their own programs.
9. We would like organizations where both husbands and wives can attend together. We would like a young couple's club and greater association with people of our own age.

The criticisms are not listed in any particular order of importance. They were stated in varying degrees of extent. Nevertheless, they do help to clarify the question as to why more young couples are not participating in existing organizational activities. Herein appears to be a challenge to those persons professionally interested in planning rural adult educational programs. That is, how to reach all groups who desire help, how to combine study and recreational programs effectively, how to provide needed information so as to permit "couple" participation, how to provide information of equal interest to all in attendance and in keeping with the varied educational levels and community backgrounds represented by such groups in specific communities. Whatever the solution, these appear to present problems that need careful investigation.



**Organizational Activities Desired.** In trying to round out information deemed pertinent to organizational participation and interest, an effort was made to get some idea of what the couples would like to have in this respect and the type of activity best suited to their needs. Each interviewee was asked, "What would you like to have in the way of community organization and individual assistance?" It will be recalled that interviews were recorded for 45 men and 135 women. These persons represented the 150 families in the study. Their answers to the aforementioned question are summarized in Table 5.

**TABLE 5.—Kinds of Community Organization and Assistance Desired by Men and Women**

Assistance Wanted	Men (45 records)		Women (135 records)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	8	17	3	2
Recreational groups	31	70	113	83
Study groups	16	35	21	15
Combination study and recreational groups	37	82	108	80
Personal counseling	3	7	15	11
Educational materials (pamphlets, booklets, reading lists, etc.)	18	40	43	32

It will be noted that 8 men and 3 women did not desire the organization of new community activities, nor did they desire assistance in the form of personal counseling or educational materials. A review of data relative to these persons does indicate, however, that they were active in community life, that they appeared to have adequate social contacts, that their homes were supplied with educational materials, and that they expressed few needs in other areas being studied.

The majority of men and women in the study, however, felt the need for new activities or redirection of emphasis in some of those already established. The fact that 70 percent of the men and 83 percent of the women expressed a desire for the formation of recreational groups emphasizes the need for a greater social and recreational life on the part of these young people. Also, eighty-two percent of the men and 80 percent of the women expressed interest in joint educational and recreational programs. It appears that both sexes had approximately the same interest in this type of activity. Their keen interest was

manifested in such statements as "there are so few opportunities for young people to get together in this community, we would be glad to cooperate in such a program."

The number who indicated a desire for personal counseling and educational materials is especially significant, and suggests that these methods are worthy of attention by community leaders interested in meeting the needs of young farm families.

From information obtained, there appears to be a need for organizations now active in rural areas to extend their activities and opportunities to include more of these couples. In areas where organizations are not present, they might be developed by the couples themselves if they were given guidance and encouragement by older community leaders. In no instance, it seems, should these leaders forget the emphasis upon joint educational and recreational programs which the young people have expressed. Furthermore, it would appear that the kinds of assistance might be enlarged to include greater personal guidance and the use of educational methods other than meetings. This could mean a wider distribution of attractive and timely newsletters as well as carefully prepared articles in local newspapers.

**Subjects of Interest.** The first concern of community leaders and administrators of action programs is the group's motivation to participate in organized activity and their interest in program content. It has been demonstrated that the couples in this study were interested in educational-recreational programs. But what specific interests did they have with regards to program content? To determine these interests each interviewee was asked, "What subjects would you like to have covered either in group meetings or in printed educational materials?" The responses to the query are summarized in Tables 6 and 7.

A large proportion of men, 88 percent in fact, indicated interest in the subject of general farming as contrasted with specialized farming. They especially wanted to know which of these was most desirable for the beginning farmer who has little money to invest in specialized machinery, equipment, and livestock. Subjects in which interest was expressed next most frequently included farm operating agreements and leasing practices, how to best save for farm ownership, trends in scientific farming, selection and efficient use of farm machinery, and problems in farm management with emphasis placed on planning and record keeping. Forty percent were interested in discussions of marketing processes; 31 percent in food production, its preservation and cost as

**TABLE 6.—Subject-matter Areas Men were Most Interested in. Frequency of Replies of 45 Men to the Question "What Subjects Would You Like to Have Covered Either in Group Meetings or in Printed Educational Materials?"**

Subject	Number	Percent
Desirability of general vs. specialized farming for beginning farmer	40	88
Farm operating agreements—Leasing practices . . . . .	37	82
How best to save for farm ownership . . . . .	37	82
Trends in scientific farming . . . . .	32	71
Farm machinery and equipment, selection, efficient use . . . . .	29	64
Farm management, planning, record keeping . . . . .	23	51
Marketing, prices, economics . . . . .	18	40
Food production, preservation, cost . . . . .	14	31
Family relationships, rearing of children . . . . .	11	24
Other . . . . .	5	11

compared with family consumption, and 24 percent indicated the subject of family relationships. The fact that so many men expressed interest in food production and the subject of family relationships indicates that there is some family basis for program planning, and may give a good clue to the type of program which would be acceptable to many of them.

In Table 7 where subject-matter preferences of women are listed, it will be noted that answers have been grouped under 6 major headings. Although the original question was asked in such a way as to enable the individual respondent to indicate any subject-matter area in which she was particularly interested, the replies were quite specific. It was possible, therefore, to select 6 major headings as representative of all classifiable answers.

There are two striking things to be observed in an examination of Table 7. One is the great interest expressed for information concerning home and family living. The second striking thing is the large percentage of women who indicated a desire for information in each of the following categories, namely: home management (85 percent), child development (77 percent), money management (63 percent), family relationships (55 percent), family health and recreation (43 percent).

It was apparent that the young homemakers had reached a particular stage in their lives when they had come face to face with situations where they needed exact information and help. The levels of education and community background experience seemed to make little difference

**TABLE 7.—Subject-matter Areas Women were Most Interested in. Frequency of Replies of 135 Women to the Question "What Subjects Would You Like to Have Covered Either in Group Meetings or in Printed Educational Materials?"**

Subject	Number	Percent
<b>Home Management</b>	115	85
Time and energy management in the home		
Techniques of work simplification		
Improved methods of work		
Purchasing and management of household supplies and furnishings		
Home maintenance		
Sewing techniques (especially children's clothing)		
How to enjoy "house keeping"		
<b>Child Development</b>	104	77
Principles of development; physical, social, emotional, mental		
Behavior problems and discipline		
Special problems in guidance and recreation		
Diseases: treatment and care		
<b>Money Management</b>	85	63
Management of irregular cash income		
Keeping of records		
Evaluation of records		
Kinds, extent and quality of real income		
<b>Family Relationships</b>	75	55
Early adjustments in marriage		
Adjustment to relatives and in-laws		
Adjustment to children		
Sex information		
Responsibilities in marriage		
How to meet "quarrels" in marriage		
<b>Family Health and Recreation</b>	59	43
Planning a family nutrition program		
First aid and medical care of the sick		
Planning recreation for the family		
<b>State and National Affairs</b>	8	6

in their expressions of need or interest. One factor which did stand out, however, was the degree to which the homemakers had experienced home economics training and participated in 4-H Club work. These persons appeared to be better organized in their homemaking activities and evidenced greater confidence in their abilities than many of those without such training.

In concluding this section some observations seem to be in order. The first seems to be the fact that young farm couples are not over-organized and that they definitely need more such relationships. Evidence would indicate, however, that specific kinds of organizational activities are required in order to more adequately meet their needs and interests. These appear to be not only a combined educational and recreational program but those in which both husband and wife can attend and meet with other couples of their own age group. A desire for help with specific problems in home and family living indicates that their needs for educational programs are in most instances quite different from those in an older, more established farm family. In particular, improved community recreational programs are needed which will ensure active participation by the majority at least. Full incentive to form leisure-time organizations, to participate in worth-while community service projects, and to develop programs of interest to all participants need extension.

The second observation is based upon data which indicates that more women than men find it difficult to attend meetings regularly. Perhaps the limitation of meetings as a means of reaching all young farm families equally well needs to be more realistically faced. For some of these persons the need for help may be acute. It appears, therefore, that special study of the effectiveness of methods other than meetings is desirable. Perhaps the emphasis should be placed on newspaper articles, newsletters, county radio and television programs, traveling libraries, and home visits. At any rate, it would appear that this is a challenge to all administrators of rural action programs.

The third and last significant observation is the major need, from a community standpoint, to integrate these young people into its social and organizational life. The young couples have much to offer. They are energetic, enthusiastic, and well prepared to assume positions of helpfulness and leadership. The extent to which this is not being realized in full measure points up a need for existing organizations to more thoroughly study their community, to determine who the young married people are, what their needs may be, and to make a conscious effort to enroll them in active membership.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FARM BUSINESS

### TENURE CLASSIFICATION

The distribution of families by type of tenure was as follows: 48 percent were tenant-operators, 33 percent had a father-son arrangement, 17 percent owned land, and 2 percent were classified as farm managers. It was difficult to find representative samples of owner-operators or those classified as farm managers. This may have been due to the fact that many young married couples (as defined by the study) had thus far found the purchase of a farm beyond their economic means while others did not have sufficient experience in farming, in management, and training to qualify for the position of manager.

It will be noted that the major portion of families interviewed relied upon some type of contractual arrangement to obtain the use of land owned by others. Since the terms of these arrangements might affect the family's satisfaction with farming and have direct bearing upon their successful adjustment to home and family living, it seemed desirable to make the following inquiries: (1) With whom are your farm operating agreements made? (2) Are these agreements satisfactory to both husband and wife? and (3) If not satisfactory to both what are the plans for change?

Over 50 percent of the families and landlords covered by this study were related to each other. Of those related (76 families) 64.4 percent were sons, 6.6 percent were sons-in-law, and 30 percent were of some other relationship. With the exception of those owning land (26 families) all other families (48 or 32 percent) had made arrangements with unrelated persons. The unrelated persons were usually retired farmers who had moved to town and retained the farm either because of their attachment to it or as a source of income.

In general, the principal types of farm-operating contracts were (1) the profit-sharing agreement or partnership in which the father and son joined in operating the entire farm, and (2) the standard 50-50 lease—both livestock and crop-share used frequently in Ohio.<sup>4</sup>

It appeared that tenants having a kinship to the landlord felt greater security of tenure than did those not related. On the other hand those without kinship ties expressed greater satisfaction with farm-operating agreements. For the most part they were the older families

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<sup>4</sup>Moore, H. R. Leasing Practices on Ohio Farms. Ohio Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. 733: 1-2, August 1953.

in the group studied. Since they were older, more experienced, and frequently with a larger equity in livestock and machinery, it is possible that they had not only greater bargaining strength as tenants and a better understanding of what to look for in leasing arrangements, but also greater knowledge of how to adjust these arrangements to fit their particular circumstances and personal situation. In some instances the original agreement with the landlord had been supplemented or amended to more nearly satisfy the tenant family.

Data indicate that 15 families, or 31.2 percent of those operating farms with non-related individuals, were not entirely satisfied with present farm-operating arrangements. The majority stated, however, that they would ask for important changes when the renewal of the lease was next discussed, and that they expected the landlord to give their request serious consideration.

Forty-seven families, or approximately 62 percent of the group who had farming arrangements with relatives, were dissatisfied with present operating agreements. The majority of these (84 percent) were in the group who had a father-son arrangement. Indications were that many fathers and sons (48 percent) were farming together without having given serious thought to the need for written agreements. Prior to marriage such informal agreements had worked out satisfactorily. At the time of interview, however, many of these young men were questioning the wisdom of verbal agreements but considered it difficult to approach parents about the matter. The wives, more frequently than their husbands, were concerned about the division of labor, division of income, purchases of new machinery and livestock, the manner in which records were kept, and the advisability of the family remaining in such a partnership. Fifty-one percent of the wives expressed this dissatisfaction.

The inability to assume partial responsibility for the management of the farm and to try new farming practices, as well as too much parental domination, were indicated by 11 percent of the families as factors creating dissatisfaction with the father-son arrangement.

Sixteen percent of the families who had farming agreements with relatives other than parents voiced similar dissatisfaction with their agreements. Again, the inability to try new and improved farm practices, domination by older relatives, and poorly designed leasing arrangements were the factors most generally stated.

Certain elements appear to contribute to the satisfactory tenure of land and the successful adjustment of many young couples to home and family living. An analysis of data relative to families in this study indicate the following elements to be important:

1. A written agreement that is clear, complete, fair to both parties, mutually profitable, and which can be adjusted as the tenant gains in knowledge and experience.
2. An agreement which states how the tenant and landlord will share in capital investment, management, profits, losses, and in the general conduct of the farm business.
3. An equal sharing of responsibilities insofar as circumstances permit.
4. Full opportunity for the tenant and his family to assume complete management of their own family life and finances irrespective of their relationship to the landlord.

#### **ACRES FARMED**

A total of 37,572 acres of land was farmed in all four tenure categories. An analysis of the total acreage farmed in relationship to the type of tenure shows that (1) owner-operators were farming an average of 149 acres, (2) tenant-operators an average of 231 acres, (3) those with a father-son arrangement an average of 312 acres, and (4) those operating as farm managers an average of 528 acres. Tenant-operators and those having a father-son arrangement (81 percent of the total number interviewed) accounted for 85.9 percent of the total land farmed.

Families were questioned as to whether or not present acreage was adequate for the kind of farming in which they were engaged. Approximately 46 percent replied that it was not adequate. When analyzed by tenure classification, 68 percent of the owner-operators indicated that they needed greater acreage, as did 41 percent of the tenant-operators, and 44 percent of those with a father-son arrangement. Each of those operating as farm managers felt that their acreage was sufficient. The fact that the present farm was too small to support two families—the owner and renter, or that of father and son—was the reason most frequently given for needing more land.



## INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

Each couple was asked to indicate the approximate amount of money invested in farm equipment and machinery. This was exclusive of livestock. Results indicate an average of \$5,357.00 so invested by each family. Inquiry was also made as to whether or not the couple felt that they had adequate machinery with which to operate their present farm, if they owned any machinery in cooperation with other farmers, or if they had the use of machinery which belonged to some one else. An analysis of the data shows that 71 families, or 47.3 percent of the number interviewed, felt that they did not have adequate machinery with which to operate a farm alone, that 36 percent of the couples owned some machinery in cooperation with some one else, and that 59 percent of the group had the use of machinery belonging to some other person. The latter was particularly true of those farming in a father-son arrangement or as a hired manager. Furthermore, it appeared not to be unusual for relatives living on adjoining farms or in an immediate neighborhood to have invested cooperatively in a piece of expensive equipment. No great dissatisfaction was voiced with this arrangement. In fact, it often appeared that this was the only means whereby many young farmers could avail themselves of necessary equipment without fear of indebtedness beyond ability to pay out of present or future income.

## MAJOR SOURCES OF FARM INCOME

Each family was asked to indicate the major source or sources of their farm income. It will be noted from an inspection of the data in Figure 3 that dairying was the leading farm enterprise of 66 percent of those in the study. This might be expected, however, due to the relative importance of dairying in central Ohio and especially in the coun-

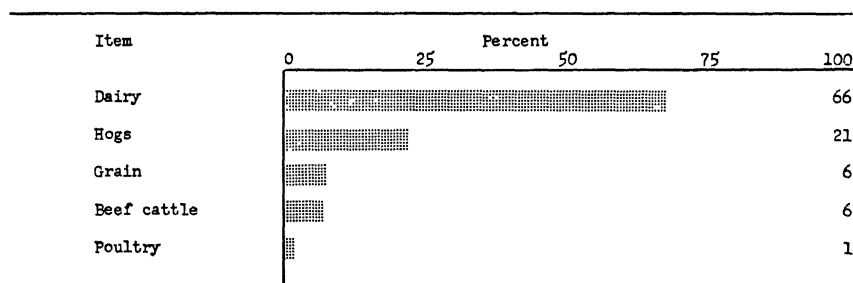


Fig. 3.—Major source of farm income.

ties wherein the families were contacted. Other leading sources of income were hogs, grain, beef cattle, and poultry each in the order given.

### **PLANS FOR INCREASING FARM INCOME**

In trying to round out information deemed pertinent to this section, interviewees were asked if they had immediate plans for increasing their farm income. In response to this query (1) 40 percent stated that their plans were to enlarge the dairy herd as soon as possible, (2) 37 percent wanted to find additional land to rent and thus increase crop production, (3) 26 percent hoped to increase their total livestock and crop program rather than limit their chances to 1 or 2 commodities in a changing market, (4) 21 percent hoped to find a larger farm to rent and with an operating agreement more satisfactory than the one under which they were farming at time of interview, (5) 9 percent planned to do more custom work for farmers in the community, and (6) 4 percent stated that they planned to seek some part-time off-farm employment as soon as possible.

### **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE HOME**

#### **LOCATION AND GENERAL CONDITION OF HOUSES LIVED IN**

Data relative to the physical environment of homes in which couples lived were obtained in two ways, namely, through interview with members of the family, and by personal observations of the investigator. That information which pertained to the location of the house and its relationship to the farm, number of rooms occupied, utilities, and the incidence of certain selected furnishings was usually supplied by the interviewee. Information which pertained to the general condition of the house, both exterior and interior, was recorded entirely on the basis of the investigator's judgment. Such things as whether or not the house was badly in need of paint, screens torn and sagging, wallpaper loose or torn, and windows broken influenced this judgment. Inquiry was made, also, as to whether or not the condition of the home was satisfactory to both husband and wife and, if not satisfactory, the plans for improvement.

The living arrangement of families has been referred to previously. It will be recalled that 126 couples, or 84 percent of the study group, lived in a house which they alone occupied; that 24 couples, or 16 percent, shared a home with someone else. At that point in this report no effort was made to define the location of the house in which the families

lived or to indicate its relationship to the farm on which the family produced the major portion of its income. An analysis of the data shows however, that 75 couples (50 percent of the study group) lived in the only house on the farm and occupied it as a single family unit; that 24 couples (16 percent) lived in the only house on the farm but shared it with another family who were usually the parents of either the husband or wife, and 39 of the couples (26 percent) lived in a second house on the farm. The second house was usually referred to as "the tenant house". Twelve couples (8 percent) lived in a house removed from the farm on which the family produced its major income. In most instances this house was also a tenant house, not in use by the farm owner, and being rented to the couple on a monthly basis. It will be noted, therefore, that all couples who lived in a second house on a farm, and those living removed from the farm were in houses which they alone occupied.

Specific reference is made to these figures because of their influence upon data relative to the physical condition and size of the homes lived in. In those instances where a house was shared with someone else or lived in by the couple as the "only house" on the farm, the physical condition, both exterior and interior, was usually rated as good. It appeared that the "only house", built originally as a home for the owner and maintained as such by subsequent owners, had been kept in better condition and provided a more satisfactory dwelling from the standpoint of physical environment than did houses in the other two categories. Generally speaking, the "second house" on a farm had been originally built as a tenant house with little thought given to construction, convenience, or general attractiveness. For the most part these houses were in poorer condition, were smaller, and less frequently supplied with running water and bathrooms than those indicated as "only houses" on farms. They were, in the majority of instances, occupied by young couples who considered them only as a temporary residence. Indications were that many couples hesitated to repair or to improve the place because of the uncertainty of remaining on that farm or in that particular house.

There appeared to be a growing trend for older farm families to build a second dwelling on the farm for the married son or daughter who remained to work in a father-son arrangement rather than have them live in the older tenant house or share the main dwelling on the farm. In such instances the houses were usually modern and well arranged throughout. Later analysis of the personal problems of young couples would indicate, however, that serious thought should be given to the location of the second dwelling.

The typical farmhouse was a frame, two-story structure, and built in all cases as a single family dwelling. A majority of the houses were old, and tended to be large. Data relative to the exterior condition of these houses indicate that 50 percent were in good condition, 34 percent in a fair state of repair, and 16 percent in poor condition.

The number of room (exclusive of bathrooms, halls, basement, storage rooms or unoccupied attic space) was recorded. Results show the average number of rooms actively used by families in the study to be 6.8. There appeared to be little question as to adequacy of living space but rather the need for fewer rooms, better arrangement of the rooms occupied, and less wasted or cut-up space as is frequently noted in many older farm homes.

An analysis of information relative to the interior condition of the homes lived in shows that 42 percent were in good repair, 36.6 percent fair, and 21.4 percent in a poor condition.

#### **FAMILY'S SATISFACTION WITH HOUSES OCCUPIED**

An attempt was made to discover the satisfaction of families in regards to present housing conditions. The following questions were asked, namely: (1) is the general condition of the home satisfactory to both the husband and wife, and (2) if the condition is not satisfactory to both, what are the plans for improvement? It is interesting to note that a far greater number of husbands were satisfied with the house occupied than were the wives. The men, in selecting farms to rent or to buy were concerned mainly with the character of the farm, its soil, buildings and equipment rather than the condition of the house. Most of them regarded a period of tenancy as a temporary step toward ownership, and accepted inferior housing as a necessity. In fact, 77 percent of the husbands indicated satisfaction with the present condition of the homes whereas only 37 percent of the wives indicated satisfaction. Most women expressed the desire for a house in which some consideration had been given to the needs of a family with young children, and to the heavy work load of a young homemaker.

Each of the couples who owned homes (26) indicated they had plans for modernization and improvement just as soon as their financial situation permitted it. Others had little hopes for major improvements since landlords are frequently reluctant to put money into house repair for tenants, and the couples themselves did not wish to invest money, time or effort in repairs when leasing arrangements and permanency of tenure were uncertain. An interesting observation was the fact that so

many of the couples felt that the house, insofar as the physical condition was concerned, was "alright" for the time being. It appeared, therefore, that many families were willing to forego their satisfaction with the house so long as the land was productive and insured them a fair income from which they hoped to move ahead financially and eventually buy a home of their own.

It must be noted here that this section does not in any way touch upon satisfaction or dissatisfaction with living arrangements.

#### **UTILITIES AND HOME FURNISHINGS**

All 150 homes had electric service; 88 percent had water piped at least into the kitchen, and 52 percent had bathrooms. A large proportion of those with water piped into the house had a kitchen sink. Seventy-two percent of the families had telephones. Thirty percent of the houses had central furnace heat. The majority of the homes were heated with circulating heaters which burned coal or fuel oil. Eighty-nine percent of the families used an electric stove for cooking, 10 percent used bottled gas. Only one family was using coal and wood at the time of interview but they were awaiting the installation of an electric stove which had been recently ordered.

The fact that all homes were supplied with electric service made it possible for families to own many electrical appliances and other non-essential items which nevertheless add to the comfort and livability of homes. For example, all homes had one or more radio sets and 83 percent had television sets. The nearness of the counties in this study to cities of Ohio which provide excellent television viewing, and the number of channels available for the selection of programs, undoubtedly influenced many families to avail themselves of television sets. Each of the 150 families had a mechanical refrigerator, 36 percent had home freezers, 145 families or 96 percent interviewed, had washing machines, and 23 percent had automatic dryers. All families had electric irons, and 94 percent had electric vacuum cleaners.

As a rule, a fair quality of furniture and other furnishings had been purchased for the home, and the young homemakers had achieved fairly attractive results in their decorative planning.

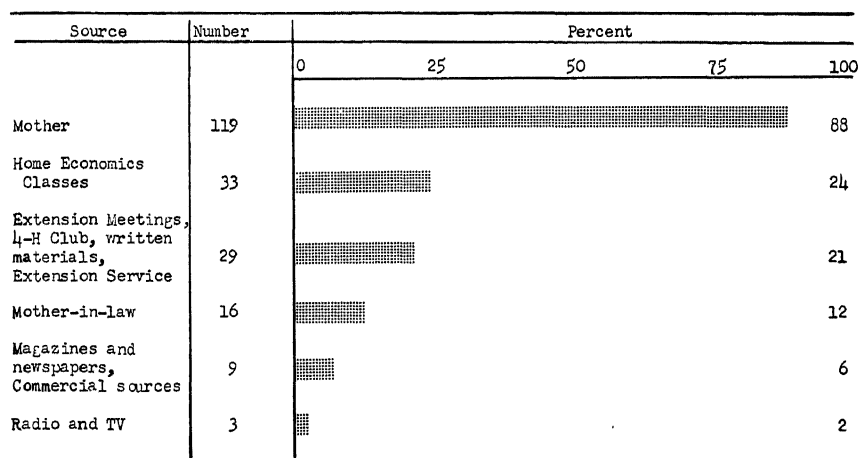
#### **HOME MANAGEMENT FACTORS**

The manner in which a home is managed is the natural outgrowth of past training, experience, and attitudes of the two individuals founding a home, and the human association of these two and their children in the new home environment. Although no two families may be alike

in every respect, it would appear that certain responsibilities and attitudes are common and around them successful home management and family living center. Because of the multiplicity of tasks and decisions which fall to the wife in the home, much of the responsibility for successful home living depends upon the place of leadership which she assumes, the manner in which she organizes and manages her work, and the attitudes which she manifests toward the job. To obtain information relative to these factors, the questions asked of homemakers centered around three main points, namely: (1) preparation for the job, (2) organization and management of work, and (3) attitudes.

#### HOMEMAKER PREPARATION

Women are not born adequate or inadequate as home managers. Each reacts to her work according to her education or lack of education, together with the thought, judgment, and foresight she possesses. Thus homemakers in this study were asked to indicate the source or sources from which they had learned the major portion of the techniques used to carry out homemaking activities and responsibilities. The replies are analyzed in Figure 4. It will be noted that the majority (88 percent) stated that their mothers had been a chief source of training; 24 percent indicated home economics classes. It will be recalled from the earlier analysis of subject-matter concentration (Table 4) that



**Fig. 4.—Sources from which women had learned major techniques used in homemaking activities.**

19.3 percent of the women had concentrated work in home economics at the high school level, and one homemaker had majored in home economics at the college level. Twenty-one percent of the interviewees indicated the Extension Service, 4-H Clubs, and written materials obtained through the county extension office as being sources of help; 8 percent referred to mothers-in-law, newspapers and magazines, radio, and television.

Homemakers were asked if they had found it difficult to adjust to homemaking responsibilities at the time of marriage. In reply, 41 percent indicated that it had been difficult. They gave as the chief reason the lack of training and responsibility in general home management practices afforded in the parental home. Twenty-three percent continued to find the adjustment difficult.

#### **ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WORK**

Ways and means of simplifying home work, more efficient work habits, and time to do the things considered most important around the home, appeared to be among the important problems facing young homemakers in this study.

In reply to the query, "Do you frequently complain of being one whose work is never done?", 76 percent replied affirmatively. The most frequent answer to the question was "It's impossible to get through or to plan one's work on the farm. One gets discouraged, gives up, and doesn't try anymore." However, when asked if they had ever used a work or time schedule in the management of household and family duties, 94.8 percent of the group replied that they had not. The majority stated they did not know how to organize such a schedule but would like to know how. A few mentioned that they had read articles in magazines about schedules but that these were usually for the urban housewife and would not apply to rural homemaking. Results seemed to indicate that many women were not aware of, nor taking full advantage of, opportunities available to them through the County Extension Service, the county library or materials published by private, state, and federal agencies. If these were suggested as sources of help, homemakers frequently stated that they did not know how to make the necessary contacts. It appeared that most women thought of the Extension Service as being chiefly a source of foods and clothing information.

The following appeared to be one of the most significant findings relative to the problems of homemakers in this study, namely: 21 per-

cent of all women (29) stated that their lack of knowledge in home management practices and techniques was a factor affecting the happiness and unity of their homes.

Since the adequacy of materials and equipment for good homemaking practices and cooperation by other members of the family influence the management of a home, other questions were explored. These were: (1) Do you feel that you have adequate equipment with which to maintain your home? (2) Do you feel that your husband could assist you more with household tasks? (3) What are some of the farm and home tasks in which you and your husband frequently assist the other?

Seventy-four percent of the homemakers felt that they had adequate equipment with which to carry out their homemaking responsibilities. A number of these indicated that although they did not own a specific piece of equipment, they had the use of such which belonged to a near relative and were welcome to use it whenever necessary. In each family where it was mentioned that equipment was inadequate, the sewing machine was most frequently referred to as being needed. The results show that 49 percent of the homemakers did own a sewing machine.

Seventy-five percent of the homemakers felt that their husbands could do no more than they were now doing to assist with household tasks; 25 percent felt that their husbands could assist more. The latter usually referred to the lack of equipment, poorly arranged houses, small children, and the amount of work which they did on the farm as being factors influencing their replies. An interesting observation was the fact that wives with off-farm backgrounds more frequently replied in this manner.

One criterion of successful farm family life is that all members of the family share as they are able in either planning or carrying on activities as they are related to farm and household tasks. Since the children in families included in this study were too small to be of help, information was obtained only about those farm and home tasks in which the husband and wife most often assisted the other. Table 8 which summarizes this information brought out some significant but not surprising data. The one activity in which couples most frequently cooperated (80 percent of all families) was food marketing. Interviewees indicated that it was difficult to say whether or not this was a task which they shared or a form of recreation which they enjoyed. At any rate, it appeared that the couples tried to plan their trips to market during evenings when the larger self-serve markets are open, when they



could take the children along, and when they could shop leisurely. It was evident that the men enjoyed this activity as much as the women and were willing to drive considerable distances in order to share in it.

**TABLE 8.—Farm and Home Tasks in Which Husbands and Wives Frequently Assisted the Other**

Farm and Home Tasks	Number	Percent
Food marketing . . . . .	120	80.0
Care of children . . . . .	97	64.6
General errands in connection with farm work . . . . .	89	59.3
Wiping dishes . . . . .	63	42.0
Gardening . . . . .	58	38.6
Running tractor . . . . .	36	24.0
Discipline of children . . . . .	25	16.6
Milking cows . . . . .	14	9.3
General cleaning (weekly) . . . . .	14	9.3
Caring for farm livestock . . . . .	13	8.6
Meal preparation . . . . .	9	6.0
Keeping family records . . . . .	8	5.3

It is possible to draw some important inferences from the above data which might be of special significance for the social planner. First, couples can get away from the home during week-day evenings if they can take their children along. Secondly, they enjoy certain activities when it is possible to do them together, and third, distance for travel is not a deterrent if the desire for the activity is sufficiently strong.

To further elaborate on Table 8, it will be noted that 64.6 percent of the couples assisted each other in caring for small children, and 59.3 percent of the women assisted their husbands with errands in connection with farm work. Voluntary remarks made at the time of interview would indicate that the errands consisted, in the main, of driving the family car to town for purposes of picking up hired help, repair parts for machinery, feed for livestock, and other farm supplies.

Forty-two percent of the men regularly assisted their wives by wiping dishes, while 38.6 percent of the couples cooperated in the cultivation of a vegetable garden. Furthermore, 24 percent of the wives stated that they enjoyed the opportunity to be out-of-doors and thus assisted their husbands whenever possible by running the tractor. This, the majority of women said, was during the spring and fall months when the husband's work-load was especially heavy.

The fact that only 16.6 percent of the couples assisted each other with the disciplining of children should be extremely significant for all who have interest in this area of study. Such statements as "My husband leaves that problem up to me" and "We think discipline is a mother's responsibility" or "The mother is with them most of the time and knows best when to discipline" were voiced with an earnestness which appeared to leave little reason for doubting their interpretation of the question at the time of interview. However, after analyzing the data and reflecting upon the small number of couples who appear to assist each other in this important phase of family life, the interviewer has questioned the use of the term discipline. It is possible that couples may have interpreted this to mean punishment or infliction of pain rather than training which may mold, strengthen, and affect conduct.

Only 5.3 percent of the couples cooperated in keeping family records; 9.3 percent of the wives helped their husbands with milking, and 8.6 percent assisted with the general care of farm livestock.

It is of interest to note, also, that 9.3 percent of the husbands regularly helped their wives with the general weekly cleaning but only 6 percent of the families indicated cooperation in the preparation of meals.

### ATTITUDES

Every homemaker holds certain attitudes toward homemaking activities. These attitudes are integrated into a pattern which forms the basis of her management of the home, influences the manner in which specific responsibilities are approached and carried out, and forms a guiding point of view for family living. Attitudes towards specific tasks in the home, will also influence the fatiguing effect of the work.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup> To secure data relative to attitudes towards specific tasks held by homemakers in this study, three questions were asked. These were: (1) Which homemaking activity do you find most enjoyable? (2) Which activity is the most disliked? (3) Which activity causes the greatest fatigue? Replies are summarized in Table 9.

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<sup>5</sup>Muse, Marianne. Time Expenditures on Homemaking Activities in 183 Vermont Farm Homes. Vermont Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. 530, Pp 35-64, 1946.

<sup>6</sup>Knowles, Elaine E. (Weaver). The Most Tiring Household Tasks as Reported by 582 Homemakers, unpublished master's thesis, Cornell University, 1938.

<sup>7</sup>Knowles, Elaine E. (Weaver). Some Effects of the Heights of Ironing Surface on the Worker, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 833, 1946. Pp 8-9, 54.

**TABLE 9.—Number and Percent of Women Who Indicated Certain Attitudes About Specific Homemaking Activities**

Activity	Attitude					
	Most enjoyable		Most disliked		Causing greatest fatigue	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Planning and meal preparation	71	52.5	6	4.4	—	—
Cleaning . . . . .	—	—	74	54.8	72	53.3
Ironing . . . . .	—	—	13	9.7	4	3.0
Washing clothes . . . . .	2	1.5	24	17.8	31	22.9
Mending . . . . .	2	1.5	3	2.2	—	—
Sewing . . . . .	22	16.3	—	—	—	—
Dish washing . . . . .	—	—	12	8.9	26	19.3
Care of children . . . . .	38	28.2	3	2.2	2	1.5
Total . . . . .	135	100.0	135	100.0	135	100.0

Planning and preparation of meals was the activity most enjoyed by 52.5 percent of the homemakers. Next in the order of mention were the following: (1) the care of children, 28.2 percent; (2) sewing, 16.3 percent; (3) mending, 1.5 percent; and (4) washing of clothes, 1.5 percent.

Cleaning, the activity most disliked by homemakers (54.8 percent) was reported also, as producing the greatest fatigue. It appeared that the lack of thought and time given to planning for this task, inadequate cleaning supplies, and poor organization in the storage of equipment and supplies were factors most commonly contributing to this attitude. However, voluntary statements made by homemakers would indicate that frequently the lack of cooperation and appreciation on the husband's part, as well as the hopelessness of keeping things picked up after children were contributing factors as well.

Next in the order named as disliked activities were: washing clothes, 17.8 percent; ironing, 9.7 percent; and dishwashing, 8.9 percent. Furthermore, 4.4 percent mentioned meal planning and preparation as disliked tasks, 2.2 percent indicated the care of children, and 2.2 percent referred to mending in this manner.

It is interesting to note that just as cleaning rated first by homemakers as being the most disliked task and the one causing greatest fatigue as well, so washing clothes rated second in each of these

categories. Approximately one-fourth of the women (22.9 percent) considered laundering their most fatiguing task because of the many movements necessary to do the job, the amount of time it consumes, an inconvenient source of water supply, and the lack of proper equipment. Data show that the major portion of the women who disliked washing lacked either modern conveniences with which to do the job, or ability to organize the work into time and energy step-saving arrangements.

Dishwashing was indicated as the most fatiguing task by 19.3 percent of the homemakers and ranked third in the order of frequency. The most common reasons for disliking the task were its monotony, the frequency of the job, the need for standing to do it, poor arrangement of equipment and supplies, inadequate storage for dishes and utensils, and the amount of time consumed. Only 3 percent referred to ironing and 1.5 percent to the care of children as fatiguing tasks.

According to this study, and listing the activities each in the order of frequency, meal planning and preparation, the care of children, and sewing were the homemaking activities considered to be most enjoyable by the majority of women. Cleaning of the house, washing clothes, and ironing were tasks most frequently disliked, while cleaning of the house, washing clothes, and dishwashing were considered to be those causing greatest fatigue.

Since poor arrangement of equipment and supplies, inadequate or inefficient equipment, the many movements necessary to do the job, the need for improved organization of work, and the need for better storage facilities were indicated as reasons for dislike of many tasks and the main cause of fatigue, it appears that these subjects might be considered when planning programs for such groups. It will be recalled, also, that 21 percent of the women in this study stated that their lack of knowledge in home management practices and techniques was a factor affecting the happiness and unity of their homes.

### **ECONOMIC FACTORS**

Any analysis of economic factors which influence the home and family life of young rural families is made difficult because of the complex relationship between many variables such as regularity and amount of income, security of tenure and place of residence, effective or ineffective economic management, level of education, and the psychological process of marital adjustment itself. In view of the intricacy of these variables, it is not easy to assign to each its relative contribution. Furthermore, a study of these variants as related to satisfactory family living has brought forth not altogether clear-cut methods by which to make comparisons.

In projecting the present study the following factors were assumed to have a positive influence upon the home and family life of young couples: (1) economic security as shown by such indices as regularity and adequacy of income, lack of debts; (2) efficient management of income; (3) buying habits. These factors were selected to operate merely as guiding hypotheses and are, therefore, subject to critical evaluation. Data relative to the aforementioned factors were analyzed, relationships made, and conclusions drawn on the basis of responses by interviewees to two questions, namely; (1) Do you feel that the happiness of your home and family life could be improved? (2) If yes, what suggestions do you have for making this possible?

#### SECURITY: ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Couples were asked if they had any indebtedness at time of marriage which had been assumed prior to marriage, and if they had assumed responsibility for any sizeable debt since marriage. No family reported that they were in debt at time of marriage. However, 61.3 percent of the group stated that they owed sizeable sums of money at time of interview. Table 10 shows the number and percent of families who indicated the specific nature of their present indebtedness.

**TABLE 10.—Number and Percent of Families Who Indicated the Specific Nature of Indebtedness**

Nature of Indebtedness	Number	Percent
Machinery, farm equipment . . . . .	93	62.0
Family car . . . . .	61	40.6
Bought farm . . . . .	22	14.6
Livestock . . . . .	21	14.0
Home furnishings . . . . .	18	12.0
Medical bills . . . . .	9	6.0
Remodeling of home . . . . .	5	3.3
House trailer (\$3,500.00) . . . . .	1	0.7

Ninety-three families or 62 percent of the group were in debt for farm machinery and equipment; 40.6 percent were trying to meet payments on a family car and/or farm truck; 14.6 percent owed on the farm which they had purchased; 14 percent were in debt for livestock, and 12 percent were making payments on home furnishings. Six percent indicated outstanding indebtedness for medical care while 3.3

percent mentioned a debt for remodeling and modernization of the home in which they lived. One family had bought a trailer for \$3,500.00 and owed a considerable sum on it. To explain the reason for this purchase, the couple said that the farm which they rented had excellent income possibilities but did not have a house on it. The original house had burned. It had seemed wise for the couple to rent the land, buy the trailer in which to live, and take advantage of the opportunities otherwise afforded them to get a good start in farming.

There appeared to be little question as to the effect of this indebtedness upon the lives of couples since 75 percent of the husbands and 42 percent of the wives indicated that this was a factor affecting the happiness and unity of their home life. It was apparent that the general decline in farm prices during the winter of 1952-1953 (when families were contacted), and the unfavorable predictions for agriculture in the period ahead was influencing this concern. Any relationship between these variables, therefore, cannot overlook the role of psychology in such predictions. Apprehension over future prospects was apparent and tending to make these families think in terms of making changes or frightening them into uncertainty and worry. The question may arise as to why there were more husbands than wives who reported indebtedness as affecting the happiness and unity of their home life. It may be that men are more conscious of this frustration than women. At any rate, these couples appeared to be maritally less happy than did those who did not report heavy indebtedness.

Substantial gifts at time of marriage were reported by 13.3 percent of the couples as being of inestimable value in helping them get a start in farming and in housekeeping. These gifts were as follows: (1) 3 families received deeds to tracts of land; (2) 9 families were given all of the furnishings for their home; (3) 4 families received expensive farm machinery so as to permit their getting a start on a rented farm; (4) the parents of 4 couples had purchased additional land so that there would be a separate house for the couple as well as greater acreage to be farmed under a father-son agreement. The greater acreage would permit an income more in keeping with the living standards of the two families concerned.

Thirty-two percent of the couples reported parental assistance since marriage. This assistance had been in the form of loans of money with which to purchase machinery, livestock, household furnishings or an automobile. Six couples (4 percent of the group) reported gifts of money in substantial amounts.

Other areas indicating security were investigated. One of these concerned attitude toward savings. In reply to the question "Do you plan regularly for savings?" the majority (127 families or 84.6 percent) replied in the affirmative. Answers were usually qualified as follows: (1) we save in order to pay off our debts and thus have a greater investment in the farm business; (2) we save so that we will have a down payment on machinery and livestock needed to produce better income, and to secure a larger farm for rent; (3) we are just getting started in farming and must have more machinery and livestock if we hope to succeed.

It has been said that saving has meaning only when its purpose is well planned and clearly understood by all the family. It appeared that savings to these couples did not necessarily mean "ready-cash" in the bank but rather an investment in capital goods with which to achieve the long-time goal of farm ownership. It is significant that the manner in which money was saved or invested did not appear to influence the family life of those couples whose long-time goals were shared by husband and wife. In those instances where couples were not in agreement on future goals, there appeared to be less marital happiness.

### **MANAGEMENT OF INCOME**

The degree to which husband and wife cooperate in the management of available resources, the degree to which they plan for the use of income and share in keeping family expense records, has a vital bearing upon the happiness and well-being of the family and its members. For those in the rural population who have irregular money incomes, or those with a large part of the income in the form of real income, planning and cooperation is not only more difficult but also more necessary.

Information relative to the management of income by couples in this study would indicate that this is an area where considerable help is needed. Young rural families appear to need training in the use of family financial records, in methods by which they can make weekly and monthly adjustments to irregular farm income, and knowledge of the kinds, extent, and value of real income by which money income may be extended. It will be recalled (Tables 6 and 7) that 63 percent of the wives and 51 percent of the husbands indicated that greater knowledge of farm-money management was a real need and expressed an interest in having this subject discussed in community study groups. This need is even more apparent in view of the following data.

Eighty-seven percent of the homemakers did not keep home expense records in any form, nor had they ever attempted to evaluate their home and family expenditures by keeping a budget. In contrast to this, 74.5 percent of the husbands stated that they kept farm account books for income tax purposes, but that these records were inadequate as guides to future planning both for the farm and for the family. The number remaining (25.5 percent of the husbands) indicated that their father or landlord kept the farm records for both families.

Of the 19 homemakers (12.7 percent) who kept home account books 11, or 7.4 percent, indicated they assumed full responsibility for record keeping and evaluation. Management of farm accounts and record keeping was generally accepted as the husband's responsibility. Only 8 families, or 5.3 percent of the 150 participants, reported cooperation in the work connected with record keeping and evaluation for both farm and home account books. This distribution of responsibilities appeared to be satisfactory to the majority of husbands and wives reporting.

Responses to questions concerning the keeping of records and their effectiveness in the economic management of homes revealed no significant data relative to their effect on the happiness or unhappiness of these families. The responses appeared to be fairly well distributed between those who kept records and reported that the happiness of their home and family life could be improved and those not keeping records who reported the same.

#### **MANAGEMENT OF REAL INCOME**

Real income has been defined as the use made of goods that may be available without the use of current income.<sup>8</sup> For the farm family this is where the quality of management is frequently revealed since the use of such items as food produced in gardens and orchards, the use of dairy and poultry products, and the skill exerted by homemakers in the preparation and preservation of such foods has power to decrease or increase the total realized income of the family.

The food that farm families can produce for their own tables has traditionally been one of the advantages of living on a farm. But home production takes time and labor, and the trend is now, it appears, for the farm homemaker to lighten her work by buying more of the labor-saving food products on the market.

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<sup>8</sup>Kyrk, Hazel. *Economic Problems of the Family*, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1933, Pp 113-114.



An effort was made to determine the extent to which rural home-makers in this study made use of, or realized the value of certain resources available to them. Ninety-seven percent of the group indicated that their farm was so arranged that a considerable amount of the food consumed by the family **could be** derived from it. This did not necessarily imply that families were making full use of possibilities at their command. Three percent of the families were in rented houses with no available space for gardens or poultry.

Interviewees were asked to indicate some of the foods which their farms did provide for home use. (Figure 5.) Eighty-four percent raised some meat for home consumption; 82 percent had a vegetable garden; 73 percent had their own supply of milk and cream, and approximately 1 out of every 2 families were supplied with poultry and eggs. Couples often remarked that it was possible to buy eggs cheaper in quantities sufficient for family use than it was to feed a small flock of poultry or to be bothered with their care.

Only 16 percent of the families had any fruit which was grown on their farms. This figure may be misleading, however, since fruit was frequently reported even though there may have been only a few apple trees, a pear tree, or a few berry vines.

There were only two families who reported home production of butter. This may be significant in view of the fact that 73 percent stated that they had their own milk and cream supplied by cows on the farm, and dairying was reported by 66 percent of the group as a source of major income.

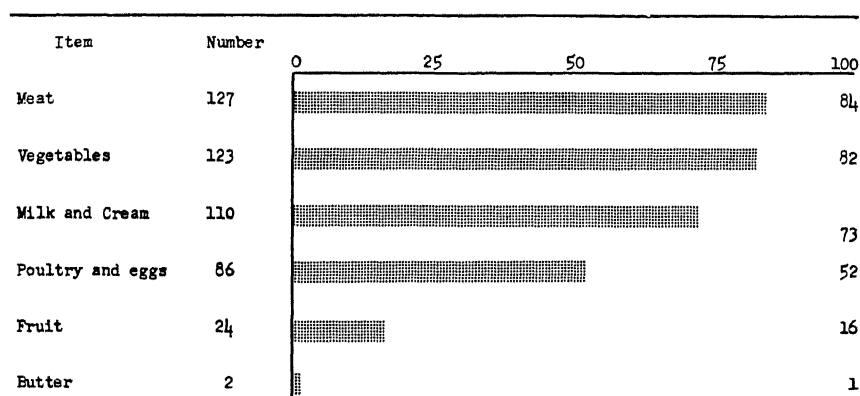


Fig. 5.—Number and percent of families who produce some of the indicated commodities for home use.

In view of the fact that 97 percent of the families said that their farms could supply a large proportion of food for home use, it would appear that many were not making full use of the opportunities afforded them to extend cash income by better management of real incomes.

Seventy-six percent of the homemakers reported some preservation of foods in season for use throughout the year. Of the group reporting (114 homemakers) 55 percent used a rented food locker; 48 percent used a home freezer, and 40 percent did some home canning. It will be noted that homemakers frequently indicated the use of one or more of these methods. Homemakers who did not preserve foods in season gave as their reasons for not doing so replies such as a lack of knowledge in the principles of canning, not having a home freezer, the need for a rented food locker, or not wanting to bother with the task.

### **BUYING HABITS**

The buying habits of individual family members is a factor which may cause disagreement and lead to considerable unhappiness in the home. The policy of the family toward credit, the size of the income, the period in the life cycle, and the objectives of the home should determine not only the purchase but whether it is wiser for the family to use cash or credit.

An analysis of the buying habits of families revealed a wide use of credit. Only 2 families or 1.3 percent stated that they paid cash for everything; 97 percent always paid cash for food; 83 percent used monthly charge accounts for such items as clothing, small equipment and home furnishings; 69 percent used the installment plan for larger items of home furnishings such as stoves, refrigerators, or television sets, and 23 percent reported the use of private bank loans to tide them over difficult financial periods. All families reported the use of charge accounts, installment buying, and private or bank loans for purchases of farm machinery and equipment, feed, and/or livestock at one time or another.

Because of the wide use of credit and the similarity of buying habits evidenced by all couples in this study, it was not possible to secure any significant relationship between this variable and its influence upon the family's happiness or unhappiness in marriage.

## ATTITUDE TOWARD ECONOMIC SITUATION

Each of the 45 male interviewees was asked "In your opinion what is the greatest economic problem which your family faces at the present time?" Replies are summarized in Table 11. It will be observed that 37.7 percent referred to heavy indebtedness; 28.8 percent to the drop in farm prices; 11.0 to the need for more regular farm income, and 11.5 percent to the need for cash with which to increase machinery and livestock inventory. The need for finding a larger farm to rent was expressed as an economic problem by 8.8 percent of the group, while one man (2.2 percent) stated that his greatest problem was the need for sufficient cash or savings with which to make a down payment on a family farm.

**TABLE 11.—Number and Percent of the 45 Male Interviewees Who Indicated Their Family's Greatest Economic Problem**

Problem	Number	Percent
Heavy indebtedness . . . . .	17	37.7
Drop in farm prices . . . . .	13	28.8
Need for more regular income . . . . .	5	11.0
Need for cash to increase machinery and livestock inventory . . . . .	5	11.5
Finding a larger farm to rent . . . . .	4	8.8
Need for sufficient savings to make down payment on a family farm . . . . .	1	2.2
Total . . . . .	45	100.0

Responses given by women to the question were similar to those given by the men. As shown in Table 12, 31.9 percent of the women mentioned the need for more regular income; 28.1 percent referred to the need for increased income to provide a more satisfactory standard of family living; 23.8 percent stated that indebtedness was their family's greatest economic problem, and 6.6 percent referred to the need for finding a larger farm to rent. Six percent of the women felt that the greatest economic problem facing their families was the need for savings or an emergency fund, and 3.6 percent felt that an enlarged livestock program, especially dairy cows, to provide more cash income was their families biggest economic problem.

**TABLE 12.—Number and Percent of Women Who Indicated  
Their Family's Greatest Economic Problem**

Problem	Number	Percent
Need for regular income . . . . .	43	31.9
Larger income to provide a more satisfactory family living . . . .	38	28.1
Indebtedness . . . . .	32	23.8
Finding a larger farm to rent . . . . .	9	6.6
Savings for an emergency fund . . . . .	8	6.0
Enlarged livestock program (especially dairy) to provide more cash income . . . . .	5	3.6
Total . . . . .	135	100.0

To conclude this section relative to economic factors, it may be stated that the only relationship between the economic variables explored and the degree of happiness reported by families in their home and family living appears to be (1) the extent to which families had gone into debt and (2) the degree to which both husbands and wives concur in their thinking about long-time family goals.

### PERSONAL FACTORS

Each interviewee was questioned relative to his or her interest in farm life, attitudes toward farming as a career, and the values which they considered might be gained from farm living. The responses are summarized in the sections which follow.

#### INTEREST IN FARM LIFE

In answer to the query "Do you like to live on the farm?" the husbands replied one hundred percent in the affirmative. Seventy-seven percent of the wives agreed with their husbands; 23 percent disagreed. The majority of those who disagreed had non-farm backgrounds and salaried employment experience prior to marriage. These women frequently stated that adjustment to farm living had been difficult, that irregular income, the uneven and long hours of husbands work which made planning for any social event uncertain, that distances from friends, and loneliness had influenced their thinking.

Each of the men expressed a desire to continue farming as a career, whereas 9.7 percent of the wives did not want their husbands to continue farming. In each instance the wives felt that their husbands could make a better income in off-farm employment, and that this move

would be for the best interests of all family members. However, 13.3 percent of the wives felt that even though they disliked farm life it was best that they remain since this was the type of work which the husband best understood.

Couples were asked if they would like to have their children accept farming as a career. In reply to this, 93.3 percent of the husbands and 80.7 percent of the wives said yes; 6.7 percent of the husbands and 19.3 percent of the wives said no. The negative replies were usually qualified by statements as follows: (1) "Life is too hard", (2) "It's too difficult to get a start unless there is someone to help", or (3) "It's better to have a profession".

Information relative to the question "Have you, as a family, ever seriously considered a move from the farm?" was obtained from each of the 150 families represented by the study. The question recognized the fact that the couple might prefer farm life to any other, but for some specific reason or reasons have felt that they could not remain on one. Fifty-five couples or 36.6 percent of the group indicated that they had seriously considered such a move at various times. As will be observed (Table 13) families frequently referred to several factors which had

**TABLE 13.—Number and Percent of Families Who Stated Specific Reasons for Considering a Move From the Farm  
(55 records or 36.6 percent of total study group)**

Reason	Number	Percent
<b>Difficulty in getting a start</b>		
1. High cost of machinery and livestock . . . . .	51	92.7
2. Uncertainty of tenure . . . . .	40	72.7
3. Necessity for cash to provide family living while getting a start in farming . . . . .	37	67.2
4. Difficulty in finding a farm of sufficient acreage to provide family needs on 50-50 rental basis . . . . .	23	41.8
5. Difficulty in obtaining a loan with which to buy adequate machinery and livestock . . . . .	19	34.5
<b>Difficulty in finding farm with modern home . . . . .</b>	32	58.1
<b>Dissatisfaction with farming arrangement</b>		
1. Difficulty in getting good lease . . . . .	29	52.7
2. Inadequate father-son agreement . . . . .	21	38.1
<b>Better income can be made in off-farm employment . . . . .</b>	18	32.7
<b>Not for best interests of all family members</b>		
1. Wife does not like farm . . . . .	9	16.3

influenced their thinking in this respect. These were categorized and appear in the following order of frequency: (1) difficulty in getting a start; (2) difficulty in finding a farm to rent which has a house with modern conveniences; (3) dissatisfaction with farming arrangements; (4) better income can be made in off-farm employment, and (5) moving would be for the best interests of all family members.

**TABLE 14.—Factors Which Make Farming an Interesting Career as Expressed by 45 Young Married Farm Men**

Factor	Number	Percent
A farmer has his own business, is his own boss, feels independent of time clocks and other pressures. There are no unions telling him what to do . . . . .	44	97.7
It is easier to achieve some degree of economic security than it is in town. One feels that his family will always eat . . . . .	41	91.1
It is wonderful to watch things grow . . . . .	39	86.6
Farm life is a wonderful life for children . . . . .	37	82.2
Farm living develops good citizens if they half-way try . . . .	35	77.7
It is healthy out-door life . . . . .	35	77.7
Good money can be made after one gets a start . . . . .	33	73.3
Is good security for old age. One usually owns a farm by then and income doesn't stop because a man is no longer active. A farmer can keep young by watching things grow, keeping the farm as a hobby . . . . .	28	62.2
One can vary farm enterprise to suit family interests . . . . .	25	55.5
Life never gets monotonous. There are so many different jobs to be done . . . . .	17	37.7
Farm life makes for good family life. A man can be with his family more than in many other jobs . . . . .	17	37.7
Farming seems to be basic to the American way of life . . . .	12	26.6
Can be a fine life without having to spend a lot of money on education in order to achieve it . . . . .	9	20.0
A man can be a leader in his community, feel important, and have many friends easier than in town . . . . .	7	15.5
Country people seem friendlier than city . . . . .	5	11.1
Seems like the way man was intended to live, and not cooped up on city streets . . . . .	2	4.4

Although these families had considered a move from the farm, it was obvious that they had not moved. Some interest or values placed upon farm life must have, therefore, influenced their decision to remain. To determine what these influences might be, each interviewee was asked to indicate, if possible, at least three factors which in his or her opinion makes farming an interesting career. Factors expressed by men and listed insofar as possible in their own words are summarized in Table 14.

**TABLE 15.—Factors Which Make Farming an Interesting Career as Expressed by 135 Young Married Farm Women**

Factor	Number	Percent
<b>One can be his own boss</b> . . . . .	118	87.4
1. Carry out new farming ideas		
2. No time clocks		
3. Not limited in planning one's future		
4. Farming offers a challenge to one's abilities and managerial skills as well as a challenge to defeat weather and price conditions		
<b>Wonderful place to rear a family</b> . . . . .	103	76.2
1. Healthy atmosphere		
2. Children can develop profitable hobbies within the farm surroundings		
3. Is an education for children to watch things grow, be active in farm clubs, etc.		
4. Not as much opportunity for children to get into mischief which may breed delinquency		
5. Teaches a boy a trade		
6. The entire family can be together more than in many kinds of work		
7. Husband and wife can have more similar interests than in many other kinds of employment		
<b>Gives one a feeling of security</b> . . . . .	93	69.0
1. If out of debt, can make good money		
2. Family appears to live more cheaply than in town		
3. Food seems more plentiful		
4. Better life during depression years		
5. One usually has an equity in machinery and livestock which results in a feeling of security		
6. One can benefit in own profits more than in some kinds of work		
<b>One feels that farming is a basic way of life</b> . . . . .	78	58.0
1. Don't feel confined even though the work day is long and one is unable to get far from the farm		
2. Nothing gets monotonous		
3. One meets and mingles with wholesome people		
4. Is a quiet life with a particular fascination and beauty		

All of the men liked farming. They readily stated their likes and contributed more than the three factors suggested by the question. Listed most frequently were the following: (1) one is his own boss, (2) farming offers a degree of security, (3) it is a good life for children, (4) it develops good citizens, (5) it is healthful, and (6) the work is interesting and varied. Many other reasons given indicated a genuine interest in farming.

The women indicated their reasons for liking farm life just as readily as did the men (Table 15). They indicated the following general areas, namely; (1) one can be his own boss, (2) wonderful place to raise a family, (3) gives one a feeling of security, and (4) farm living seems to be a basic way of life.

Table 16 summarizes responses of men to the query "What are some of the factors which make farming undesirable as a career?" These were, for the most part, economic in origin and closely parallel reasons given by young men for having considered a move away from the farm. In the order of frequency the factors were: (1) difficulty in getting a start, (2) discouragement resulting from the initial cost of going into farming, (3) uncertainty of income, (4) long period of time before one can get ahead financially, (5) difficulty in finding a desirable farm to rent, (6) low income when family needs are greatest, (7) long hours involved in farm work, (8) farmer is the first to feel a depression, (9) difficulty in finding time to take vacations with the family, (10) farmer is the victim of his own managerial abilities, (11) uncertainty of weather conditions.

**TABLE 16.—Number and Percent of Men Indicating Specific Factors Which Make Farming Undesirable as a Career**

Factor	Number	Percent
Difficulty in getting a start . . . . .	39	86.6
Initial cost of going into farming . . . . .	37	82.2
Uncertainty of income . . . . .	35	77.7
Long time required to get ahead financially . . . . .	28	62.2
Difficulty in finding desirable farms to rent . . . . .	27	60.0
Income is lowest when family needs are greatest . . . . .	19	42.2
Long hours involved—no 40 hour week . . . . .	19	42.2
Farmer is the first to feel depression . . . . .	11	24.4
It is a job without vacations . . . . .	10	22.2
A farmer is the victim of his own managerial abilities . . . . .	6	13.3
One is the victim of the weather . . . . .	5	11.1



The women replied to the question (Table 17) much the same as did the men but in more detail and with greater emphasis on home and family insecurities and difficulties. Their replies could be categorized and placed under the following major headings: (1) uncertainty of

**TABLE 17.—Number and Percent of Women Indicating Specific Factors which Make Farming Undesirable as a Career (135 records)**

Factor	Number	Percent
<b>Uncertainty of Income</b> . . . . .	129	95.5
Weather conditions: Prices and market trends; Insecurity of tenure: Diseases of livestock and crops		
<b>Difficulty in Getting a Start</b> . . . . .	122	90.3
Initial investment great: Interest rates on loans add to financial burden: Difficulty in finding good farms to rent: Young families do not have back-log of savings with which to meet emergencies created by bad crop years or lowered prices		
<b>Difficulty in Securing Services</b> . . . . .	107	79.2
Baby sitters: Emergency medical care: Hired help for farm and home: Pick-up and delivery from stores: Nursery schools and kindergarten		
<b>Family Tied Down Especially with Livestock Program</b> . . . . .	89	65.9
Vacations impossible: Pleasure trips must be sand- wiched between chores: Peak seasons and long hours make social life and recreation impossible		
<b>Income Lowest when Young Family Needs are Greatest</b> . . . .	75	55.5
Young families need money for babies, home furnish- ings, farm equipment: Homemaker unaccustomed to job and has to experiment on ways to save: Worry over low income creates family tensions: Income is low for amount of work involved: Farm couples must meet problems faster and more seriously than urban couples		
<b>Farm Ownership Difficult without Assistance</b> . . . . .	73	54.0
Without assistance from family and/or relatives farm ownership seems impossible when family must divide so much of the earnings with landlord		
<b>Farm Life is a Hard Life for the Wife</b> . . . . .	64	47.7
Wife more tied down than one in town: Difficult to have a homemaking schedule: Is a lonely life if not accustomed to farm life: Must delay needed home and family purchases so husband can buy things for farm: Old houses, lack of modern con- veniences, rooms poorly arranged		

income, (2) difficulty in getting a start in farming, (3) difficulty in securing services for the family such as baby-sitters, emergency medical care, domestic help, nursery schools, and kindergartens, (4) family always tied down to the farm, (5) low income when the young family needs are great, (6) ownership difficult without assistance from family and/or other relatives, (7) hardships on the wife because of old houses, lack of modern conveniences on many rented farms, loneliness, difficulty in having any kind of schedule, and being so tied down to the home.

In view of the number of factors indicated by couples as making farming undesirable as a career, it seemed advisable to inquire of the men "What influenced you to consider farming?" (Table 18).

**TABLE 18.—Number and Percent of Men Giving Specific Responses to the Question "What Factors Influenced You to Consider Farming as a Career?" (45 records)**

Factor	Number	Percent
The only life I've ever known, feel emotionally and vocationally equipped for the job . . . . .	41	91.1
A natural interest in farming, stimulated by contacts with 4-H Club, vocational ag. classes, and farm organizations . . . . .	34	75.5
Like farming as a way of life both for myself and for my family . . . . .	31	68.8
Unless one is professionally trained farming offers greater economic security than many other types of employment . . . . .	17	37.7
There is good money to be made once a man gets a start . . . . .	14	31.1
Returning from the army I had a chance to get a start with my father . . . . .	13	28.8
Equity in livestock, machinery, and money saved as a boy helped me get the start I needed . . . . .	5	11.1
I am an only son and someone is needed to stay and help my parents who are getting along in years . . . . .	3	6.6

It will be observed that 91.1 percent of the young farmers replied that it was the only life they had ever known, and they felt emotionally and vocationally equipped to accept farming as a career. Furthermore, 75.5 percent of the group indicated they had a natural interest in farming which had been stimulated by contacts with 4-H work, in vocational agricultural classes, and by membership and interest in farm organizations. Farming as a way of life was expressed by 68.8 percent of the group as being one of the factors which had influenced their decision to

accept it as a career. Approximately 37 percent felt that farming offered greater economic security than did other types of employment unless one is professionally trained. About one in every three interviewed (31.1 percent) indicated that there was good money to be made in farming after one got a start. Upon return from Army duty, 28.8 percent had been given the opportunity to return to farms owned by parents. With this chance to get a start, and their natural interest in farming as a career they had accepted the offer. Equity in livestock, machinery, and money saved as boys had helped 11.1 percent of the young men to get a start in farming and thus had helped to influence their decision to be farmers. Three of the men indicated that they were only sons, that their parents were elderly, that they would eventually own the farm, and that this had been one of the deciding factors in their accepting farming as a career.

Since each of the husbands had expressed interest in remaining on the farm in spite of factors which tend to make it a difficult career and the wives had not always agreed with their decisions, it appeared that information relative to ways in which farm living might be made more enjoyable for the wives would have value. The wives were asked, therefore, to list some of the factors whereby living on a farm might be made more interesting and enjoyable for them (Table 19).

**TABLE 19.—Number and Percent of Wives Who Indicated Specific Ways by which Farm Living Could be Made More Interesting and Enjoyable**

Factor	Number	Percent
More time for recreation, relaxation, and hobbies . . . . .	103	76.3
A modern house with up-to-date equipment . . . . .	83	61.4
Friends of own age and interests living close-by . . . . .	71	52.5
Be able to take planned vacations: do some traveling . . . .	57	42.2
Have a homemaking routine which husband would try to follow . . . . .	39	28.8
Family free of indebtedness . . . . .	18	13.3
Security of income . . . . .	17	12.6
Own a farm so that much for which we work does not go into a landlord's purse . . . . .	9	6.6
Have husband understand that wife's contribution as a homemaker is as important as his contribution in managing the farm . . . . .	2	1.4

An analysis of these responses appears to be highly significant in terms of previous data. It will be recalled that most of the women were not active in community organizations and activities, that approximately one-third had non-farm backgrounds and were unfamiliar with rural life and the demands of farm living, and that loneliness was mentioned as one of the reasons for a dislike of farm life. The fact that 76.3 percent of the group felt that farm living might be made more enjoyable for them if they had time for relaxation, recreation, and the development of hobbies indicates anew the need for concerted effort on the part of rural social planners to help meet the specific needs of young homemakers in rural communities. Furthermore, it will be observed that 52.5 percent of the homemakers referred to the need for friends of their own age and interests who would live nearby. Other ways by which farm living might be made more interesting and enjoyable and as expressed by the wives were: (1) a more modern home, 61.4 percent; (2) ability to take planned vacations, 42.2 percent; (3) a homemaking routine which the husband would try to follow, 28.8 percent; (4) family free of indebtedness, 13.3 percent; (5) security of income, 12.6 percent; (6) owning a farm and not renting, 6.6 percent; and (7) husband understanding that the wife's contribution as a homemaker is as important as his contribution toward the management of the farm, 1.4 percent.

Inasmuch as a majority of wives had expressed a desire for more free time in connection with homemaking activities so that greater relaxation, recreation, and development of hobbies could be enjoyed, the following inquiry was next made, "If you had more free time in connection with your homemaking responsibilities, how would you like best to spend it?" The responses are summarized in Table 20 and again indicate, not only the need for greater participation in community organizations and activities, but a very definite desire by homemakers to participate. They stated the following ways in which they would spend their free time if such could be arranged: (1) be more active in church, community work, and farm organizations, 71.1 percent; (2) visit friends, have greater social contacts, 54.0 percent; (3) travel, plan short trips to interesting places, 37.7 percent; (4) spend more time with children, 20.7 percent; (5) sewing, 16.3 percent; (6) develop hobbies in which the whole family might share, 15.5 percent; (7) spend more time on personal appearance, 8.1 percent; (8) fix up the house, refinish furniture, 5.9 percent; (9) reading, 5.1 percent; (10) return to college, 2.2 percent, and (11) teach school, 1.4 percent.

**TABLE 20.—Responses of Wives to the Question “If You Had More Free Time in Connection with Your Homemaking Responsibilities, How Would You Like Best to Spend It?”**

How free time would be spent	Number	Percent
Be more active in church, community work, and farm organizations . . . . .	96	71.1
Visit friends more, have more social life . . . . .	73	54.0
Travel, plan short trips to interesting places . . . . .	51	37.7
Spend more time with children . . . . .	28	20.7
Sewing . . . . .	22	16.3
Develop hobbies in which whole family could share . . . . .	21	15.5
More time on personal appearance . . . . .	11	8.1
Fix up house, refinish furniture . . . . .	8	5.9
Reading . . . . .	7	5.1
Return to college . . . . .	3	2.2
Teach school . . . . .	2	1.4

Information presented in the present section indicates that the majority of couples were interested in farming as a way of life, that they want to make farming their career in spite of certain difficulties and handicaps to be overcome, that they were well aware of ways in which farm living might be made more interesting and enjoyable for them and, if given the free time and the opportunity, they would like greater social participation in the community where they now live.

Data appear to present the following challenge to all agencies desiring to work with young rural families: (1) the need for a thorough study of the characteristics of families which they endeavor to serve and (2) a re-examination of the goals and procedures for rural education in the light of more realistic needs and interest of young rural couples.

### **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

Family living consists of close personal relationships. The attitudes and values shared by family members are of fundamental importance to the success of these relationships and therefore, to the pattern of family living. Thus it was deemed important to determine the degree to which participants in this study tried to foster conditions for developing satisfying personal relations in their own homes, their attitudes towards marriage and family life, and their ultimate goals in relation to family living.

## **ATTITUDES TOWARD MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

Each interviewee was asked to name at least three factors which in their opinion contributed to the success of any marriage. Table 21 summarizes opinions as expressed by the wives; Table 22 those of the husbands. It will be noted that these replies are not listed under major headings or grouped into special categories. It is the opinion of the investigator that all too often the true meaning and significance of such information is lost in so doing. Therefore, the tables give, as nearly as possible, the exact statements made by participants in answer to the query.

Factors indicated most frequently by wives were: (1) the need for cooperation and working together by the partners in marriage, 80 percent; (2) similar goals and philosophy of life, 61.5 percent; (3) similar educational, religious, economic, and family backgrounds, 58.5 percent; (4) living alone, 40 percent; (5) sufficient income to provide satisfactory standard of living, 36.2 percent; (6) savings prior to marriage so family can have a comfortable start in marriage, 34 percent, and (7) mutual interest, 31.8 percent. An analysis of all information listed in Table 21 would indicate that wives, for the most part, were not unaware of the many contributory factors necessary to success in marriage. The husbands, however, indicated fewer factors and appeared to be more specific in their replies (Table 22). In the order of frequency, the majority of husbands indicated (1) understanding of what marriage means, 88.8 percent; (2) cooperation, 82.2 percent; (3) economic security, 75.5 percent; (4) similar backgrounds, 66.6 percent; (5) mutual interests, 62.2 percent, and (6) a religious philosophy, 51.1 percent. Other factors were good health, the ability to adjust to new and different situations, living removed from parents and relatives, children, a sense of humor, patience, and loyalty to one's mate.

A review of Tables 21 and 22 would indicate that husbands and wives were, for the most part, in approximate agreement as to factors making for success in any marriage.

## **WAYS BY WHICH HOME AND FAMILY LIFE COULD BE IMPROVED**

Participants were asked to indicate ways by which the happiness and unity of their home and family life might be improved. Table 23 summarizes the replies given by men; Table 24 the replies of women. It is to be noted that factors which have appeared throughout this study as major influences upon the home and family life of couples are again

**TABLE 21.—Factors Which, in the Opinion of Wives, Contribute to the Success of Any Marriage (135 records)**

Factor	Number	Percent
Cooperation—working together . . . . .	108	80.0
Couple having same goals and philosophy of life . . . . .	83	61.5
Similar backgrounds (educational, religious, economic and family type) . . . . .	79	58.5
Living alone: house not shared . . . . .	54	40.0
Sufficient income to provide satisfactory standard of living . . . . .	49	36.2
Some savings prior to marriage so family can have a comfortable start . . . . .	46	34.0
Mutual interests . . . . .	43	31.8
Home and farm ownership . . . . .	34	25.1
Both wanting children . . . . .	30	22.2
Good health . . . . .	28	20.7
Faith in and loyalty to each other . . . . .	21	15.5
Having the patience to wait for success . . . . .	20	14.8
Emotional maturity of both partners . . . . .	19	14.0
A genuine desire to please and make the other happy. . . . .	16	11.8
An understanding of the problems and needs of each member of the family . . . . .	15	11.1
Each trying to understand the other's job . . . . .	14	10.3
Adequate housekeeping equipment for the homemaker . . . . .	12	8.8
Both accepting the responsibilities of marriage . . . . .	11	8.1
Going to church and praying together . . . . .	11	8.1
Trying to make the most of what you have—realizing that you can't have everything in the first few years of marriage . . . . .	9	6.6
Trying to understand and adjust to in-laws . . . . .	8	5.9
Freedom from parental domination . . . . .	8	5.9
A sense of humor . . . . .	7	5.1
Both knowing how to manage money . . . . .	7	5.1
Full acceptance of other's habits—not trying to make mate over . . . . .	6	4.4
Having respect and understanding of mate's fatigue in all areas . . . . .	6	4.4
Trying to keep little things little in a quarrel . . . . .	6	4.4
Couple taking time for relaxation and recreation away from home occasionally . . . . .	6	4.4
An understanding of the place of sex in marriage . . . . .	5	3.7
Being able to adjust readily to different situations . . . . .	5	3.7
Both knowing the value of money . . . . .	5	3.7
Always be truthful with mate . . . . .	5	3.7
Being able to talk things over with each other . . . . .	4	2.9
Not dashing home to mother when couple quarrels . . . . .	3	2.2
Being able to adjust to children . . . . .	3	2.2
Each having some kind of hobby . . . . .	3	2.2
Both optimistic about the future . . . . .	2	1.4
Each trying to live by the Golden Rule . . . . .	2	1.4
See your jealousies of mate in their proper relationship to marriage . . . . .	2	1.4
No business association with in-laws . . . . .	2	1.4

**TABLE 22.—Factors Which, in the Opinion of Husbands, Contribute to the Success of Any Marriage (45 records)**

Factor	Number	Percent
Understanding of what true marriage means . . . . .	40	88.8
Cooperation . . . . .	37	82.2
Economic security . . . . .	34	75.5
Similar backgrounds: educational, economic, religious, and family type . . . . .	30	66.6
Mutual interests . . . . .	28	62.2
Religious philosophy: Live by Golden Rule . . . . .	23	51.1
Good health . . . . .	19	42.2
Able to adjust to new and different situations that arise in family living . . . . .	8	17.7
Living removed from parents and relatives . . . . .	7	15.5
Children . . . . .	2	4.4
Sense of humor . . . . .	2	4.4
Patience . . . . .	1	2.2
Loyalty to one's mate . . . . .	1	2.2

brought into clear focus. For example, the men responded in the following order of frequency: (1) modern farm home and conveniences, 79.9 percent; (2) less worry over indebtedness, 75.5 percent; (3) to live apart from relatives and in-laws, 60 percent; (4) better farming arrangement with parents, 48.8 percent; (5) an assured income, 42.2 percent; (6) farm ownership, 35.5 percent; (7) wife content herself with farm living, 11.1 percent; (8) more time for family recreation, 8.8 percent; (9) give up farming altogether, 6.6 percent; (10) live nearer town, 2.2 percent; and (11) wife's health improve, 2.2 percent.

**TABLE 23.—Number and Percent of Husbands Who Indicated Specific Ways by Which the Happiness and Unity of Their Home and Family Life Could be Improved (45 records)**

Ways of Increasing Happiness	Number	Percent
Modern farm home and conveniences . . . . .	36	79.9
Less worry over indebtedness . . . . .	34	75.5
Live apart from relatives and in-laws . . . . .	27	60.0
Better farming arrangement with parents . . . . .	22	48.8
An assured income . . . . .	19	42.2
Farm ownership . . . . .	16	35.5
Wife content with farm living . . . . .	5	11.1
More time for family recreation . . . . .	4	8.8
Give up farming altogether . . . . .	3	6.6
Live nearer town . . . . .	1	2.2
Wife's health improve . . . . .	1	2.2



Women responded much in the same way as did their husbands. An analysis shows the following order of frequency: (1) regular income, 67.4 percent; (2) modern farm home and conveniences, 54 percent; (3) less worry over indebtedness, 42.2 percent; (4) live apart from relatives and in-laws, 37 percent; (5) better farming arrangements with parents, 27.4 percent; (6) better understanding of homemaking techniques and management, 21.4 percent; (7) farm ownership, 11.8 percent; (8) better understanding with husband about distribution of farm income, 5.1 percent; (9) husband less critical of way wife keeps the home, 2.2 percent; (10) children, 1.4 percent; and (11) live nearer town, 1.4 percent.

**TABLE 24.—Number and Percent of Wives Who Indicated Specific Ways by Which the Happiness and Unity of Their Home and Family Life Could be Improved (135 records)**

Ways on Increasing Happiness	Number	Percent
Regular income . . . . .	91	67.4
Modern farm house and conveniences . . . . .	73	54.0
Less worry over indebtedness . . . . .	57	42.2
Live apart from relatives and in-laws . . . . .	50	37.0
Better farming arrangement with parents . . . . .	37	27.4
If homemaker had greater knowledge of homemaking techniques and management of home . . . . .	29	21.4
Farm ownership . . . . .	16	11.8
Better understanding with husband about distribution of farm income . . . . .	7	5.1
Husband less critical of way wife keeps the home . . . . .	3	2.2
Children . . . . .	2	1.4
Live nearer town . . . . .	2	1.4

#### FAMILY GOALS

Discussion with husbands and wives about their major goals and ambitions for the future revealed that these young people did not necessarily see the accumulation of money or savings as a goal or end product but rather in terms of what they hoped that money would be able to do for them and their families. Also, the frequency with which both men and women referred to the same things would indicate that the majority of husbands and wives know what they, as a family, are trying to do over a long time period and are endeavoring to accomplish these things together.

In reply to free answer questions, it appeared that goals could be grouped under three major headings; those covering the home and family, those related to the farm, and those concerned with community living (Figure 6).

Goals related directly to home and family living were evidenced through such statements as "We want to educate our children, to give them a good start in life. We want children to be proud of. We want a happy family life. We plan to do some traveling and hope that we all keep our good health."

To have the family free of indebtedness, to have economic security, and farm ownership came out most frequently as goals for the farm and place. However, adequate farm machinery, and a good livestock pro-

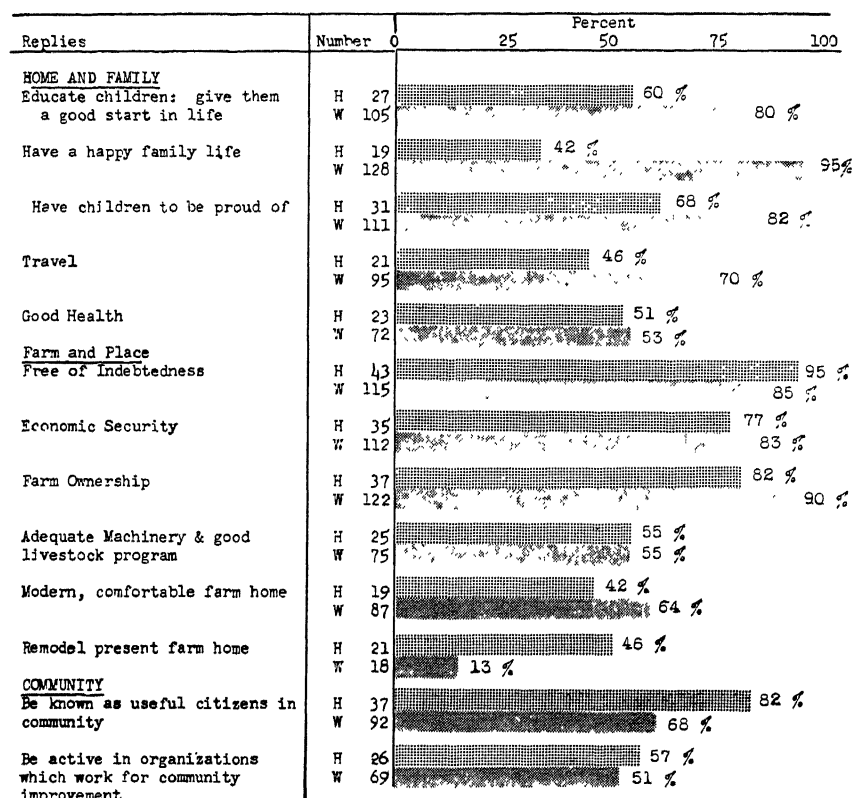


Fig. 6.—Goals and ambitions of young farm families. Frequency of replies of 45 husbands and 135 wives.

gram were also mentioned as goals. To remodel the present farm home was indicated by a large proportion of those couples who already owned farms.

A significant finding was the fact that couples so frequently referred to goals beyond immediate family interests. These were classified as community goals. Eighty-two percent of the men and 68 percent of the women indicated that they would like to be known as useful citizens in the community. Also, 57 percent of the men mentioned their hopes of being more active in clubs and organizations which work for community improvement; 51 percent of the women referred to this as a goal.

Of interest was the fact that men and women frequently looked upon work directed toward community improvement as a special goal for older persons, as something which would come later in life, or as a special privilege which comes to those well established in farming and economically secure. Reference was made to the need for better recreational facilities for all age groups, kindergartens, nursery schools, and summer play schools for small children, the need for first-aid and farm safety education, improved public health and sanitation, and the organization of rural fire departments. It appeared that men and women looked upon the elimination of these needs as something which they would consider as goals when in a position to direct their attention toward community improvement.

Significant to the purpose of this study is the number of men and women who evidenced interest in community improvement and organizational activities as goals. It has particular meaning in view of the fact that so few of the young couples were active in any community organization at time of interview. The fact appears to suggest that many young rural people are not unmindful of community needs or unaware of civic responsibilities but that they remain to be challenged by present community leadership or encouraged to participate in programs already established.

A review of information contained in Figure 6 would appear to stress once again the need for a family approach to rural educational program planning; that young people's plans, hopes and ambitions are the keys to their actions; that young people do think in terms of goals, and that if they are to be motivated by an educational program or stimulated to activity in community organizations, workers planning programs must think in terms of these goals also.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this study, an attempt has been made to point up (1) some of the major economic and personal problems which appear to have influenced the home and family life of a group of young married, central Ohio farm families, and (2) on the basis of facts revealed by the data, to make tentative suggestions for program building which would have value for community organizations and agencies interested in the needs of rural young people.

Data for the study were obtained through personal interviews with husbands and/or wives representing a total of 150 families. No couple had been married longer than 72 months nor less than 12 months; the average length of marriage was 3 years, 8 months. The young men in the study were, on an average, 26.2 years of age; the wives 24.4 years. The families had an average of 1.4 children each. The health status of all family members was generally good.

Of the 150 couples, 48 percent were classified as tenant-operators; 33 percent had a father-son arrangement; 17 percent owned and operated their own farms; and 2 percent were employed as operators or managers of land.

Of the young men, 98 percent had been farm reared, 2 percent had rural but non-farm environment prior to marriage. The majority of men had always lived in the same communities where they now resided. Of the young women, 61 percent had been farm reared, 39 percent had non-farm backgrounds. This data substantiate previous findings which indicate that rural young men are increasingly selecting mates from non-farm communities. The data are significant in light of the objectives of the present study. Of the 59 homemakers with non-farm backgrounds 41, or 69.4 percent, indicated that adjustments to rural social and environmental conditions had been difficult and one of the the major problems affecting their home and family life during the early stages of marriage.

Family levels of living and the formal schooling of both men and women were high. Of the young men, all but 13 had graduated from high school, 27 had attended college, and 10 or 6.7 percent of the group had graduated from college. Of the young women, all but 8 had graduated from high school, 39 had attended college, and 16 or 10.6 percent of the total group had graduated from college. This results in an inevitable demand for a higher standard of living.

The young men in the study appeared to be much better prepared vocationally for a career in farming than were the young women for a career in homemaking. Of the young men, 67.3 percent of those either attending or graduating from high school had concentrated their programs of study in agricultural subjects. Of the 27 who attended college, 16 or approximately 60 percent majored in agriculture. In contrast to this only 29 young women, or 19.3 percent of those either attending or graduating from high school, had concentrated work in home economics. Furthermore, only one young woman out of the 39 attending college majored in home economics.

Of the 150 families, 25 of the wives and 11 of the husbands were engaged in temporary off-farm employment at time of interview. With the exception of military service, only 11.3 percent of the young men had any off-farm occupational experience prior to marriage. Of the young women, 61 percent had been in salaried employment prior to marriage. Data show that it was the young women with non-farm backgrounds who most generally had been regularly employed. To integrate this group into a common rural social life, or to formulate educational programs and materials for them is made even more difficult by differences in their past experiences and interests.

The young men had belonged and participated in an average of 2.6 organizations prior to marriage; the young women an average of 2.7 organizations each. At time of interview, however, such contacts appeared to be inadequate for the family's well-being and integration into a satisfying social life in the community. Over 50 percent did not regularly participate in any community organization or activity with but one exception, that of the church. Indications were that attendance and participation were not impossible; that couples were interested in and desired organized activities and relationships, but that many organizations did not offer a sufficient challenge to young couples, or adequately meet their needs and interests. The emphasis in suggestions made was placed upon provision for social and recreational needs; in activities that are family centered rather than those directed solely to individual interests; in combined recreational-study groups, and in young married groups. The couples indicated a wide range of study interests but stressed particularly those problems concerning the beginning farm family. Adult education schools and agencies in rural program planning might make use of these suggestions in making out their programs.

Indications were that the living and farm arrangements of young couples should be a major consideration of those preparing for marriage, especially those planning to operate with a father-son arrange-

ment. This would be true particularly of those who plan to share a house with parents or live in a second house on the farm. The percentage of wives who voiced dissatisfaction with living arrangements (69 percent) was highest among those having such a farm arrangement. It would appear also, that serious thought should be given to the need for written, well-defined operating agreements. Of the 76 young families having contractual arrangements with relatives, 62 percent expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the business was being carried out, inability to assume greater responsibility in the farm enterprise, and to carry out new farming practices.

Because housing plays so vital a part in the health, comfort, and satisfaction in living, it is perhaps natural that many young women accustomed to either living in urban communities or in well-established rural parental homes find considerable dissatisfaction with houses provided them as wives of young tenant farmers or on farms which they, as a couple, can afford to purchase. Farm houses have not kept pace with urban dwellings when it comes to the convenient arrangement of rooms and work space, utilities such as running water, bathrooms and central heating or in storage facilities. Sixty-three percent of the homemakers in this study expressed dissatisfaction with their present housing. Indications were that special consideration should be given to the construction of tenant houses. These are usually occupied by younger farm families whose small children create special needs such as conveniently located bathrooms, play space close to the mother's work area, adequately arranged laundry facilities, first floor bed-rooms, and a heating system which may be properly regulated.

Forty-one percent of the young women indicated that their lack of preparation for, and knowledge of, homemaking responsibilities had made adjustment difficult in early marriage. Twenty-one percent of the group stated that their lack of knowledge in home management practices and techniques was a factor affecting the happiness and unity of their home life. Uppermost in their problems seemed to be lack of knowledge concerning time and energy management in the home, techniques of work simplification, purchasing and management of household equipment and supplies, and management of irregular cash income. A majority of the young men and women indicated that if opportunity were available they would like to further their training through organized community study groups if these were developed to meet the needs of young married couples.

Sixty-three percent of the wives and 51 percent of the husbands indicated that improved knowledge of farm-money management was a real need. Training in the use of family financial record keeping, how to make adjustments to irregular farm income, and knowledge of the kinds, extent, and value of real income from the farm were stressed particularly. Interest was expressed in having this subject discussed in community study groups.

Heavy indebtedness, uncertainty over the future of farm prices, the need for a more regular income with savings to act as an emergency fund, cash with which to increase machinery and livestock inventory, and the need for a larger farm to rent were expressed as the major economic problems faced by young farm families. Over 61 percent of the 150 families represented by this study reported heavy indebtedness.

All young men and, with few exceptions, all young women had a wholesome attitude toward farming as a way of life. Most expected to make farming a life-time career. They looked forward to economic security, farm ownership, a well-rounded farming program and a comfortable farm home as a goal. They aspire also, to succeed as families relatively independent of parental or other assistance and to make worthwhile contributions as families to the rural community. Many of their present needs appear to be occupational and recreational in nature.

It would appear that any educational program or activity which serves to develop confidence in the abilities of young farm families to achieve their goals, to meet specific needs for information relative to farm and home living, to meet their social and recreational needs, to provide opportunities for self expression and for member participation in the planning and execution of programs will fulfill an important need in the lives of many young married farm families.